

Hello my name is Dustyn Thompson and I'm the chapter director for the Sierra Club Delaware Chapter. We have been a strong advocate for clean energy and clean transportation in Delaware since the 1970's.

Recently we have been advocating for Delaware to join the other 18 states in the US, accounting for over 40% of the new cars sold in the US, on the Advanced Clean Cars program. We do so for several reasons. Namely, we believe that climate change is real, and is having severe impacts in Delaware and across the US and that each state has an obligation to do their part in reducing emissions to help us avoid the worst impacts of climate change. We believe that every citizen in this nation and in this state has a right to clean air and that each state must do it's part to help reduce air pollution caused by transportation emissions that have been proven to increase rates of asthma, heart disease, and other cardiovascular issues.

However, tonight we would like to include in our comments a few more additional reasons that we believe DNREC and our Governor is on the right track here in moving to adopt ACC2, namely the economics and job potential for Delaware.

Billions of dollars are being invested by car companies, electrical companies, utilities, and other industries in the transition to an electric based transportation system. That is happening regardless of whether or not Delaware moves forward here today. Companies like GM, Volvo, Ford, Kia, Huyndai, Toyota, and many others have already pledge to move to an all electric or hybrid future, most in line with or before the 2035 target in this program. Again, this is going to happen regardless of this being adopted in Delaware.

The question is not, should we move to an EV and plug in hybrid based future. That question has already been answered by the markets, and is an unequivocal "yes." The question is what states stand to benefit from that transition and what states will prepare their infrastructure to be ready for the future that is already set in stone.

By adopting ACC2, what we are really doing is sending a much needed signal that Delaware is open for business and wants these investments. 18 other states have already sent, including every state in the Northeast except PA and NH, and the investments in those states have been staggering.

While we cannot buy and EV here in Delaware, because we are not an ACC state, just across the boarder, buyers are easily finding affordable EVs in NJ, MD, NY, and on up the east coast. While we are dealing with a lack of infrastructure, over in these states rapid chargers and free level two charging is relatively commonplace and growing at a staggering rate.

We are losing good paying union jobs and workforce development opportunities to NJ and MD right now because we have been lagging behind them by almost a decade on this front. We cannot afford to keep going down that path. We cannot continue to be the last state for this massively growing industry to invest in.

There has been growing concern that if we move to adopt ACC2, that tomorrow all the gas cars will be taken away, but this just isn't the case. It has not been in any state that has done this already with ACC1 and won't be moving forward. This allows for more than just EVs, it also allows for hybrid vehicles to count as well, which is key for some really challenging sectors.

Vermont, a state much like us, is signing the paperwork tomorrow to join ACC2. This is a rural, ag based state with a few population centers, just like Delaware. But they know that this is a slow transition and is more about signaling to the investors in this market that Vermont wants this money, this opportunity. They believe in their state that they can work through this and do their part to clean up our air.

I believe in Delaware. I believe that we can make this transition just, equitable, beneficial for all, and that in 15 years, when this really goes into effect, that we will be living in a healthier, cleaner state that we can all enjoy and thrive in.

That is why we are supporting the adoption of ACC2 and we encourage others to really think about what we want Delaware to look like in 15 years.