Comment on ZEVs in Delaware

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To: Krall, Kyle (DNREC) < Kyle.Krall@delaware.gov>

The purpose of this message is to provide comment on the governor's initiative to make ZEVs available in the state.

Generally speaking, I am in favor of any technology that will reduce greenhouse gases produced by transportation of all kinds. Our reliance on fossil fuels is killing the planet, and at some point it must be phased out as quickly as reasonably possible. I see several potential problems with rushing this transition.

First, I do not believe that automotive electric battery technology is advanced to the point that it is safe and effective. There are many issues that remain, not the least of which is the tendency of batteries to combust and burn in a way that is difficult to extinguish. This potentially puts homeowners, car owners, automotive mechanics, and first responders at great risk.

Second, the current materials for battery production are mined in ways that are counter to the best environmental practices. Toxic elements often are mined in foreign countries by children using their bare hands, resulting in health consequences. I do not believe that we, as a well-off country, should base our carbon reduction strategies on practices that harm others in third world countries who are not in a position to benefit from this technology.

Finally, the technology for the recycling of battery components also has not developed to the point where materials in used batteries can be harvested to produce new battery products.

For these reasons, I believe we would be barking up the wrong tree AT THIS POINT IN TIME to put all of our eggs in the EV basket. Instead, I favor making hybrid vehicles more available and affordable to Delaware citizens through tax incentives and other public funds perhaps available via the Inflation Reduction Act.

Many thanks,

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