

March 30, 2022

Pamela Jones, Environmental Improvement Board Administrator
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Ms. Jones,

COUNTY COUNCIL

Randall T. Rytli
Council Chair

Denise Derkacs
Council Vice Chair

COUNCILORS

Melanee Hand
David Izraelevitz
David Reagor
Sara Scott

COUNTY MANAGER

Steven Lynne

The proposed New Mexico Vehicle Emissions Standards (the Clean Car Rule) is right for the County of Los Alamos, and it is right for the State of New Mexico. This letter is to officially register our support for the proposed standard. We urge you to approve the Clean Car Rule directly following the hearing and deliberation. This timeline incentivizes the auto manufacturers to deliver zero-emission tailpipe passenger cars as soon as July 2022 and increases the availability and variety of Zero-Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs) that our citizens can buy.

In our county and in our state, we have taken major steps in recent years to address greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector and improve the energy efficiency of our public buildings. The Clean Car Rule represents a critical next step to reduce emissions in the transportation sector.

In Los Alamos County, we have started to address the goals set forward by our governor in the New Mexico Climate Change Executive Order 2019. The Council formed a Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability Task Force in December of 2020. This task force was chartered to recommend ways for the County as a whole, including government, businesses, and residents, to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and advance other sustainable practices in the face of climate change. The task force recently delivered their comprehensive resiliency, energy, and sustainability strategic plan. The County will start implementing the tactics and recommendations of the plan by performing a comprehensive baseline greenhouse gas emissions study and creating a strategic climate action plan specific for Los Alamos County.

With surging gas prices, many of our citizens are eager to explore a Low-Emissions Vehicle (LEV) or a Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) as their next passenger car or truck. Likewise, they are very aware of the improvements to our air quality that come from such vehicles. Adopting the Clean Car Rule will require major manufactures to deliver more LEV/ZEV cars and trucks to New Mexico giving consumers another personal choice in how to address climate change.

We urge you to approve the proposed New Motor Vehicle Emissions Standards. The steps we've taken here in Los Alamos County can be accelerated by adopting the proposed rules for Clean Cars New Mexico. We are doing our part, now I ask that the Environmental Improvement Board step up in your next part.

Sincerely,

Randall Ryti, Chair
Los Alamos County Council