

From: [Duane Smith](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Don't Let Privilege Write the Rules for Everyone Else
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 5:11:31 PM

Dear Chair Currie and Members of the Board,

I'm writing because this policy—the mandate to only sell zero-emission vehicles by 2035—is being pitched as progress. But it doesn't feel like progress to people who have to live with the cost.

For most working people in this state, the car they drive is one of the biggest financial decisions they'll make. It's not optional. It's how they get to work, pick up their kids, or make a living. Telling them that in less than ten years, their only option is an electric car they probably can't afford—and that the state isn't ready to support—isn't liberation. It's a burden.

This mandate didn't come from the people it affects. It didn't come from the legislature. It came through the regulatory process, pushed forward by well-funded groups with the time, money, and political access to shape policy in ways most working people can't. That's not equity. That's class privilege in action.

I'm not against clean technology. But good policy meets people where they are. This doesn't. It makes life harder for people who already don't have a lot of cushion, and it does it in the name of a future that isn't being built for them.

I hope you'll vote no.

Sincerely,
Mr. Duane Smith
East Moline, IL