



www.njbia.org/recovery

September 12, 2023

The Honorable Nicholas Scutari, President of the New Jersey State Senate
The Honorable Craig Coughlin, Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly
New Jersey State House
125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-001

Dear Senate President Scutari and Assembly Speaker Coughlin:

As representatives of New Jersey's employer, labor and non-profit communities and proud residents of the Garden State, we all strive for our state to remain a vibrant place to live and work. That's why we have grave concerns about Governor Murphy's plan to ban the sale of vehicles with internal combustion engines by 2035.

While we all support improving New Jersey's environment, the governor's proposal is both impractical and misguided. Today, [there are fewer than 100,000 electric vehicles registered in New Jersey](#), out of more than 7 million vehicles. Banning gas-powered engines would inequitably strain the limited resources of families, businesses, governments, and our electrical utilities. Affordability and environmental protection do not have to be mutually exclusive. We share the Governor's desire to reduce carbon emissions, but the significant disadvantages of this proposal greatly outweigh any potential benefits.

First and foremost, this plan conveys an enormous financial burden onto every New Jersey family, especially low- and middle-income residents. On average, EVs cost significantly more upfront than comparable gas-powered cars and federal and state subsidies, which are already insufficient, won't always be there to help make up the difference. Furthermore, EVs come with hidden costs, like expensive home charging stations, volatile electricity prices, costly batteries and other maintenance concerns. Since access to reliable transportation is a basic necessity for everyone, even small price increases can unfairly target our most vulnerable residents.

Ultimately, this EV mandate would result in fewer low and middle-income families, teenagers, and seniors being able to afford a car -- greatly impacting their quality of life and ability to get to work, school, and food stores. By denying thousands of New Jerseyans access to an affordable vehicle, this mandate would be crippling to our communities, businesses, economy, and labor workforce, and would exacerbate income inequality in our state.

Banning gas-powered cars would similarly impact thousands of businesses across our state, especially small businesses that depend on vehicles to sell goods and provide services. Likewise, this plan would put New Jersey's automotive-focused businesses, [which contribute more than \\$2](#)

[billion in state and local taxes and employs more than 71,000 individuals](#), at a significant competitive disadvantage

The plan imposes a substantial expense on property taxpayers, without a necessary funding mechanism, for building and maintaining robust charging infrastructure. Even with historic investments over the next decade, there is no guarantee that the infrastructure to support such a massive network of charging stations can be built in just 12 years in a reliable manner and maintained to support our large population.

Our state will also have to make major investments in modernizing New Jersey's aging power grid to handle the significant increase in demand from new cars and home appliances. Ultimately, these upgrades are another expense that would be passed onto New Jersey's families and businesses for years to come. The Energy Master Plan estimates that an electrification policy will result in a doubling or tripling of electricity demand. This is on top of an already growing demand for more power. The result will be blackouts and brownouts and economic and social harm.

Finally, we also have serious reservations about doubling down on a technology that lacks solid domestic supply chains. Our country has a dominant auto industry and has worked for decades to gain energy independence, to the great benefit of American workers and local communities. The existing supply chain's disbursement around the world makes it more susceptible to interruptions, which could negatively affect New Jersey's economic growth. While Congress has invested recently in onshoring more electric battery manufacturing, it will take decades to fully develop this technology and it would be irresponsible to hit reset now.

Banning internal combustion engines constitutes a monumental change for New Jersey's residents. Our state Legislature deserves an opportunity to hear from constituents, take up the issue in regular session and thoroughly debate the merits of the governor's proposal. It violates the spirit of our democratic system for an issue of such importance to be solely determined by the governor. We encourage you to delay this action until a time when it can earn a vote by the full Legislature in Trenton.

Our state has the tools and resources to reduce emissions without heavy-handed government mandates. There are many other safe, proven methods of reducing carbon emissions from industrial facilities, like carbon capture and storage, that would protect workers and preserve existing businesses if widely implemented. Additionally, there are affordable and currently available transportation alternatives like compressed natural gas (CNG), propane auto-gas, renewable diesel and hybrid cars. Hydrogen vehicles are also in development. It should be up to consumers, not governments, to make the best choice on the transportation technology that is right for them. The stakes of this potential ban are high and implementing this rule incorrectly will undermine public confidence.

For these reasons, we encourage you to reject the governor's plan to ban gas-powered vehicles and support policies that allow all technologies to compete, including efficient gasoline and diesel vehicles operating with conventional and biofuel blends, battery electric hybrid, hydrogen fuel cell, and hydrogen internal combustion vehicles. Most of all, New Jersey residents should have the ultimate choice in the vehicles they purchase.

Sincerely,

Affordable Energy for New Jersey
African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Inc.
American Camp Association NY/NJ
American Institute of Architects
New Jersey Camps Government Affairs Project
American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey
American Physical Therapy Association of New Jersey
Associated Builders and Contractors – NJ
Bernards Township Regional Chamber of Commerce
Big I New Jersey
Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Bus Association of NJ
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce
Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia
Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey
Chemistry Council of New Jersey
Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey
Downtown New Jersey
Early Childhood Education Advocates
Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce
Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC 825)
Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey
Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc
Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce
Greater NJ Motorcoach Association
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce
Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Hoboken Chamber of Commerce
Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey
Home Health Services Association of New Jersey
Hudson County Chamber of Commerce
Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce
Jersey Shore Partnership
Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce
Marine Trades Association of New Jersey
Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Meadowlands Chamber
Monmouth Ocean Development Council
Morris County Chamber of Commerce
NAIOP-NJ
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
Newark Regional Business Partnership

New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association
New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Agencies
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
New Jersey Bankers Association
New Jersey Builders Association
New Jersey Business & Industry Association
New Jersey Campground Owners and Outdoor Lodging Association
New Jersey Civil Justice Institute
New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers
New Jersey Concrete and Aggregate Association
New Jersey Gasoline and C-Store Association
New Jersey Dental Association
New Jersey Fitness Alliance
New Jersey Food Council
New Jersey Gasoline-Convenience-Automotive Association
New Jersey Hotel and Lodging Industry Association
New Jersey Independent Electrical Contractors Association
New Jersey Jewish Business Alliance
New Jersey Liquor Store Alliance
New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc.
New Jersey Motor Truck Association
New Jersey Pharmacists Association
New Jersey Pipe Trades
New Jersey Propane Gas Association
New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society
New Jersey Restaurant & Hospitality Association
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
New Jersey Salon and Spa Coalition
New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants
NJ Small Business Coalition
New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association
New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Tourism Industry Association
New Jersey Utilities Association
New Jersey YMCA State Alliance
New Jersey Warehousemen & Movers Association
Newark Regional Business Partnership
North Jersey Jewish Business Alliance
New York Shipping Association, Inc.
Ocean City Chamber of Commerce
Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce
Recreational Fishing Alliance
Salem County Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County Business Partnership
Southern NJ Development Council
Sussex County Chamber of Commerce

The American Planning Association - NJ Chapter
Union Township Chamber of Commerce
Washington Borough BID