

QuickPoint! – Kate Brown’s Parting Gift

By John A. Charles, Jr.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is accepting public comments on [proposed regulations](#) that would ban the sale of new gasoline or diesel-powered cars and light trucks after 2034. The only new cars available would be electric vehicles (EVs).

These regulations were first adopted by the state of California on August 25. Now Kate Brown wants Oregonians to live under them as well.

There are many flaws in the proposed rules. First, the average cost of an EV last year was \$66,000. Most people won’t be able to afford one.

Second, EVs need regular charging. The Oregon charging network barely exists, especially for apartment dwellers. This will make EVs inconvenient for most drivers.

Third, the primary reason for the regulation is to reduce “greenhouse gases” in Oregon, but the commercial electricity grid is powered mostly by fossil fuels and will be for decades. Shifting from internal combustion engines to electric motors will simply move vehicle-related emissions from cities to the countryside.

The rules will also prove to be unenforceable. While the government can require manufacturers to offer EVs for sale, it cannot force consumers to buy them. Traditional cars will continue to be available, either as used vehicles sold in Oregon, or new vehicles purchased by Oregonians from another state.

This proposal, which DEQ plans to adopt in December, is now being circulated for public comment. Voters should express their concerns to DEQ by email at the following address: Levzev2022@deq.oregon.gov. Comments will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 21.

John A. Charles, Jr. is President and CEO of Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon’s free market public policy research organization.

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Please contact:

Cascade Policy Institute
4850 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.
Suite 103
Portland, Oregon 97225

Phone: (503) 242-0900
Fax: (503) 242-3822

www.cascadepolicy.org
info@cascadepolicy.org

4850 SW Scholls Ferry Road
Suite 103
Portland, Oregon 97225

t: 503.242.0900
f: 503.242.3822
info@cascadepolicy.org
www.cascadepolicy.org

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