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August 23, 2023

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RE: EV Mandate

To me it's very simple. If EVs are beneficial for average Americans, they'll buy them voluntarily. If they aren't beneficial for average Americans, they won't want to buy them. The fact that government is trying to take away options to EVs gives the obvious inference that government KNOWS that EVs are not beneficial now and will not be by 2035.

Forcing people to buy inferior products they don't want reeks of dictatorship. If government can control the vehicles we buy, it can control the clothes we wear, and put us all in color-coded uniforms to show our status in life. Mine will probably be a dirty brown or gray jumpsuit, while the elite will wear gold braid, epaulets, fancy hats and lots of medals. Brave New World, here we come!!

Attached is a list of 25 reasons to reject EVs. I have nothing against EVs for those who want them and can afford them, but PLEASE DON'T FORCE THEM ON US!!!

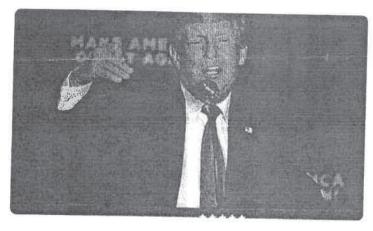
Very truly yours, Lawrence E - Merrill

Lawrence E. Merrill

experienced <u>high-voltage electrical battery fires</u> after their batteries were damaged by saltwater during Hurricane Ian.

6. When EV batteries burn (OR COMBUST), they are extremely difficult to extinguish. Texas firefighters used 40 times more water to douse a burning Tesla than they would have used extinguishing a regular ICE vehicle fire. One Norwegian ferry company has even banned EVs from its ships following a fire risk assessment.

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- 7. <u>Charging stations</u> can also represent an increased fire risk unless homeowners install new, dedicated circuits as "older home wiring may not be <u>suitable</u>" for EV charging.
- 8. Battery packs on electric vehicles may not be <u>repairable</u> if they are damaged during an accident. "For many [EVs] there is no way to <u>repair or assess</u> even slightly damaged battery packs," according to Reuters.
- 9. EV battery ranges vary but are generally <u>inconveniently short</u>. Actual ranges <u>average 12.5 percent worse</u> than listed on price stickers, while ICE vehicles averaged 4

- 17. Owners don't appear to fully trust their EVs, as 78 percent of EV owners have a second gas-powered vehicle.
- 18. China dominates the supply chains of many critical minerals needed for EV battery manufacturing. Given the Biden Administration's refusal to permit domestic mines, transitioning to EVs leaves U.S. transportation at the mercy of Chinese suppliers.
- 19. Worldwide supplies of critical minerals are currently insufficient to meet green demands. "A <u>Dutch</u> government-sponsored study concluded that the Netherlands' green ambitions alone would consume a major share of global minerals."
- 20. Child labor, hazardous working conditions, and lax environmental regulations plague the mining of critical minerals such as cobalt in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- 21. Production of <u>lithium</u> for EV batteries has substantial environmental impacts. Massive mining operations threaten sensitive high desert areas in South America where it takes over 580,000 gallons of water to produce one ton of lithium.
- 22. Recycling options are still <u>limited</u> and <u>expensive</u> for EV batteries. Many of the materials in EV batteries cannot be economically recycled, which means they will be

likely they would purchase an electric vehicle." Business and government appear happy to partner to force the American consumer to accept products they have not requested. Before attempting to force the other 81 percent of American consumers to purchase an EV, auto manufacturers should heed the thoughts of an auto industry giant.

In his 1926 book, Today and Tomorrow, Henry Ford cautioned that, when establishing a new industry, "no tractor, no thresher, no motor car, no locomotive, no new industrial device has ever been developed unless the people paid the expense. Business grows big," reminded Ford, "by public demand. But it never gets bigger than the demand." Ford concluded that it isn't possible to "control or force the demand." He argued that "there is no super-control save that of the people reacting to the service they get."

Why are auto manufacturers and government rushing to mandate this change if consumers haven't demanded it, economics doesn't justify it, our \$31.74 trillion national debt can't afford it, and the environmental benefits aren't worth it?