

Good afternoon,

In Indiana, and every state there is a compelling interest in preserving the artifacts that reflect our past. Whether these artifacts are buildings, monuments or automobiles, the way in which we celebrate the places and items central to our history indicates our level of appreciation and understanding of our heritage.

Since the dawn of the twentieth century, few things have influenced American growth and development more profoundly than the automobile. As this country was shaped by the automobile, Indiana played a central role.

Over the last century, the automobile has been among the greatest and clearest expressers of our national story. As automotive hobbyists, we undertake the restoration and preservation of these historical artifacts at our own often-considerable expense and ask for nothing in return.

Today, I will not imply that this proposed rule will bring an end to our cherished pursuit. They are however unnecessarily restrictive and complex. The rule does not take into account the realities of collector car ownership. Further, it unnecessarily places a burden on the car owner and the state. The technicians performing vehicle emissions testing are not experts on older vehicles. More often than not they will be called upon to make an educated guess as to whether a vehicle is in compliance with the rule.

While we can all recognize the value of improving air quality, we believe there that there is also a benefit to sound and thoughtful public policy.

There are certainly old cars on the road that are not used as collector vehicles. The rule as proposed, aims to make the difference between these old cars and "antique vehicles" more clear. Unfortunately, it does so in a way that does not reflect the real-world experience of collector vehicle owners. Rather than naming existing classes of vehicles accurately, it forces existing vehicles into classes that have only a superficial basis in reality.

Though this issue has come to my attention at a late stage in the approval process, I sincerely believe that the goals of the IDEM in revising this portion of their rule can be met in a way that satisfies all parties including the owners of collector vehicles.

This is a rule that has drawn the ire of the collector vehicle community and caused a great deal of confusion. Whether or not this reaction is founded, it deserves real consideration by this board beyond that which was given to the comments received in the first round of public comment.

If there is an alternative by which the goals of the IDEM might be met without causing consternation among car hobbyists, it is worth exploring.

Further, I believe such a solution can be reached and I wish to offer my assistance in crafting it. I work on behalf of car hobbyists, but I fully understand that any outcome that does not meet the needs of the IDEM is likely to be temporary. I will look forward to an opportunity to work toward a viable, long-term opportunity that suits the IDEM and all interested parties.

Most Sincerely,

Rory Carroll
Legislative Director
Hagerty Plus