

Townsend, Erle

From: Andrew Hoagland <andrewhoagland@andrewhoagland.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:57 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Urgent Opposition to Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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Dear Governor Janet Mills and the Department of Environmental Protection,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program, commonly referred to as the "California Rule." This mandate, which seeks to significantly increase the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in Maine, raises considerable concerns, especially in light of the recent severe storms our state has experienced.

The reliance on electric power for transportation, at a time when our infrastructure has proven vulnerable to extreme weather conditions, is imprudent and risky. The recent storms have highlighted the critical importance of a reliable and diversified energy mix. In situations where power outages are a matter of when, not if, the push towards electrification of our vehicle fleet could exacerbate the challenges faced by Mainers during emergency situations.

Moreover, the question of how we are generating electricity for these EVs cannot be overlooked. The move towards electric vehicles must be accompanied by sustainable and reliable energy production methods. Until we have a clear and sustainable path for electricity generation that does not depend on fossil fuels or put undue strain on our grid, pushing for a rapid increase in EV adoption seems premature.

Adopting policies similar to California's without considering Maine's unique environmental, economic, and social context is a misstep. Maine prides itself on pragmatic and independent decision-making that best serves the interests of its residents. It is crucial that any new mandates, especially those with far-reaching impacts like Chapter 127-A, are closely aligned with the wants and needs of Mainers.

I urge you to consider the potential consequences of this mandate on our state's resilience, energy diversity, and economic well-being. Maine should not follow in the footsteps of California without a thorough examination of the implications and a comprehensive plan to address our state's specific challenges and opportunities.

Please vote with your constituents in mind and oppose the Chapter 127-A mandate. Let us find solutions that safeguard our environment, economy, and way of life without compromising our autonomy or safety.

Thank you for considering my views on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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