

Townsend, Erle

From: Andy Fitzpatrick <andy.fitzpatrick2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:58 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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To the alleged "Decision-Makers",

You have no right to be pushing an EV sales Mandate. The infrastructure to support this initiative does not even exist in Maine. We cannot keep our households consistently supplied with power let alone power electric vehicles. These EV's are significantly more expensive, barely offer enough range for many citizens to even make it home each day, and charging expenses will continue to skyrocket as electrical rates escalate endlessly.

EV's represent significant safety concern for emergency and fire crews as time to extinguish a burning battery in the event of a collision is extremely long and requires thousands of gallons of water. Tesla claims that it can take between 3,000 and 8,000 gallons of water "applied directly to the battery" to completely extinguish one vehicle blaze. Battery fires, the manufacturer notes, may take up to 24 hours to be fully extinguished. Imagine if a multi-car accident the increased labor and transportation costs related.

EV's are readily available right now and inventories are already growing! Why do you feel the need, or the right, to mandate how people in Maine spend their money. We are a rural state and the EV design does not support rural communities. Mainers average a 24 mile commute which will require thousands of dollars to invest in a charger required at each EV residence. EV vehicles weigh much more which means wear and tear on roads and driveways will be stressed further.

Lastly the amount of oil and gas required to mine the necessary metals, refine them, and manufacture them into batteries negates the justification for EV's. We are stripping the earth of precious metals and and there is no strategy to deal with dead batteries. Fuel combusts and all that is left is a metal tank which can be recycled. Batteries do not have a recycling plan which means they will just be stacking up in communities around the State.

I can count less than two handfuls of chargers from Bangor through Lincoln all the way to Fort Kent. Do you really believe that the infrastructure exists to make an EV mandate right now? Metropolitan traffic patterns and infrastructure may exist in some California cities, but not across the State of Maine. EV's are already available for consumers so why put a sales mandate? They are not selling for some simple reasons. #1 consumers do not want them because they are expensive, #2 consumers do not want to deal with EV's.

I 100% oppose this mandate and find no way to justify how a small group of elected folks can sit and mandate consumer buying behaviors. Sitting in political seats directly steering sales and commerce has a really frigging bad smell to it! Can you not smell it? So the the Maine legislature now has to power to decide inventory at Maine businesses? Shame on all of you that support this ridiculous EV mandate.

Regards,

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