

Townsend, Erle

From: Cathy Hertz <cathy.hertz.dbabf@advocacy.online>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 8:07 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: OPPOSE - Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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Lynne Cayting,

The proposed rule to mandate the sale of light-duty electric vehicles in Maine is costly, unrealistic, and reduces consumer choice. Please oppose this proposed rule that would, as revised, require that 51% of the vehicles sold in Maine must be electric vehicles starting with the 2028 model year.

Maine automobile dealers are significant employers and are responsible for substantial community involvement and giving. This rule is burdensome and costly for dealers. The California rule that this proposal is based on defines "sale" in such a way as to mean the transaction between the manufacturer and the dealership, not the purchase by an end user. Any penalties assessed as a result of this rule would fall on the manufacturers.

As a result, manufacturers would take steps to avoid penalties and would act to ensure a sufficient mix of EVs and ICEs are available on dealership lots. Dealerships will only be able to stock vehicles that meet the obligations of manufacturers, not the wants and needs of our customers. This is costly to small businesses across Maine. Dealerships will be left with unsold inventory which they are paying interest on to a financing source, which is burdensome and incredibly costly.

This rule is not only costly to dealerships but it would severely restrict consumer choice. Maine families are already battling the high cost-of-living in our state, and burdening them with fewer options to purchase the vehicle that best suits their needs is piling on an already difficult situation. I urge you to oppose the proposed Chapter 127-A: advanced clean cars II program rules.

Ultimately, Maine residents cannot afford this change. Vehicles have already seen a huge rate increase since the Covid pandemic and EVs are just that much more expensive. Consider the average paycheck of those in any part of our state, but especially those in Washington County and other less prosperous areas. We also have to factor in the electricity costs to homeowners who are barely scraping by, the ability to have access to charging stations, the ability to travel the lengths it takes in our state without having to stop for to recharge (which might not be available in rural areas), the cost of insurance prices going up due to the higher increase in repair costs, the repair costs themselves when there is a breakdown. Personally I'm very interested in moving to a hybrid vehicle when I can afford one, but that should be our choice as a family and not forced onto us. Yes, we need to make changes to help our environment, but lets focus more on the bigger businesses who are doing the bulk of the damage and not on Maine families who are already struggling.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Hertz
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