

Townsend, Erle

From: Colleen Yuraska <colleen.yuraska@specialchildrensfriends.org>
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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Chapter 127 A

Categories: Red Category

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am a case manager for a small non profit in Rural Hancock County Maine and currently I work with about 40 families on my caseload that live in both Hancock and Washington Counties. I have also provided pro bono services for several families within this community as well.

Currently Hancock and Washington Counties have no accessibility to public transportation and have to travel great distances to get to most of their appointments. Financially these families that live in the rural towns in Maine struggle to just make ends meet. Purchasing a "New to them" vehicle is a luxury. As recently seen on a news channel, purchasing a Used EV might be somewhat affordable but the repairs are NOT. To replace a battery alone can range from 10,000 to 18,000 dollars. Which is NOT AN OPTION for most all the families that live in these counties. And furthermore most local garages cannot do the work.

The vote that took place in November to give access to the local garages to make affordable repairs on vehicles, speaks volumes as to WHY THIS CHAPTER 127 A SHOULD NOT PASS. The Maine people have spoken, they want to be able to buy vehicles they want and get whomever they want for a certified mechanic to fix them. Chapter 127 A would hinder their ability to do this if everyone is forced to purchase an EV in this state. Because to be trained to work on EV's is a costly training that most mechanics cannot afford.

Not to mention the necessary supported network (Electrical charging) is not cheap to install nor is it cheap to pay for the electricity to support the charging stations. When the average electric bill in Hancock and Washington County has risen by more than 1/2 if not doubled in some cases, sustaining this process is unreasonable. You would be adding more stress to an already strapped family, and forcing many to choose between a vehicle to get to work, or heating their homes or buying food.

The rationale behind pushing the State of Maine into compliance similar to California is just mind blowing to me. We are not seeing the " emissions" issues here in Maine, Mainers have been conservation forward for many years, through our forestry programs, our fishing communities and even with our transportation infrastructure in the bigger cities in Maine.

Now let's talk about our fishing communities. I can not fathom a fisherman placing an EV motor in a boat that is exposed to salt water and air, being remotely an option!!! Plus where out in the middle of the ocean would they be able to charge the batteries if they run low. Also many fish in the winter and the temperature can be extremely cold. And we have already seen what cold temperatures do to the EV's. Have we not?

And again, Maine is a cold climate state for at least 6 months a year and if we have a long run of extreme cold weather many will not be getting to work. We have already seen what this did to others in the other states. Can Maine afford to not get generated taxes from payroll if people CANNOT work?

This bill has way too many flaws and unthought out processes. It is NOT A FEASIBLE PLAN FOR THE STATE OF MAINE. IT IS UNREALISTIC, UNREASONABLE AND FAR TOO EXPENSIVE FOR THE TAXPAYERS IN A STATE WHERE MOST PEOPLE BARELY MAKE ENDS MEET.

Thank you for your time and considerations of my comments,
Colleen R Yuraska

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