

Townsend, Erle

From: ddemerson@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2023 11:24 AM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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Good morning,

Testimony regarding the mandate that will effectively ban the sale of vehicles with gas-powered internal combustion engines in the state.

I do not support this radical government overreach to transition to nearly all Electric Vehicles (EVs) by 2032, and it ought not to pass.

Once again, we have California style extremists here in Maine trying to overthrow our Maine way of life, with their typical, failed, radical policies. No different than Seafood Watch (Monterey Bay Aquarium) trying to shut down Maine's lobster fishing industry by red listing Maine lobster and accusing our industry as "non-sustainable" and endangering right whales. Nonsense! When can we get out from under all this out-of-state influence?

There is absolutely NOTHING about an EV that appeals to me. NOTHING!

Maine's population is old and poor. We have the oldest or second to oldest median age throughout the fifty states. Maine also has the third highest tax burden of the fifty states. THIRD! It is VERY expensive to live here! WHY would you want to make it worse?

I just read an article on Fox News regarding a man from Winnipeg and his "adventure" with a Ford Lightning pickup truck. "A Canadian man is calling electric vehicles the "biggest scam of modern times" after his frustrating experience with an electric truck. Dalbir Bala, who lives in the Winnipeg area, bought a Ford F-150 Lightning EV in January for \$115,000 Canadian dollars (around \$85,000 U.S. dollars), plus tax. Ford said the Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) on the vehicle is \$77,495 U.S. dollars. "He told FOX Business he needed the vehicle for his work, but also wanted something suitable for recreational activities such as driving to his cabin or going fishing. He also wanted an environmentally friendly vehicle as owning one is "responsible citizenship these days." But Bala was quickly hit with the reality of owning and operating an EV soon after the purchase. The vehicle compelled him to install two chargers – one at work and one at home – for \$10,000. To accommodate the charger, he had to upgrade his home's electric panel for \$6,000. "

"In all, Bala spent more than \$130,000 – plus tax."

How will we afford this? Along with being old and poor and already taxed to death, Maine has some of the highest electric rates in the country! Sixty-two thousand Central Maine Power Company disconnect notices in May 2023, because people couldn't pay their electric bill! WHY?

We just experienced a significant storm that shut down much of Maine's power grid for an extended period of time, causing the Maine Board of Environmental Protection to cancel the EV mandate vote. How ironic! As a life-long Mainer, I've never not been able to find an open gas station to fuel my car during a power outage in my area. Never. Under these circumstances, when everyone is forced to own an EV, we would be stranded. Maine is a rural state, and most of us don't have access to public transportation. And even if we did, the public transportation would be EVs based on this nonsense. Stranded!

I urge you to reject this radical government overreach and continue to allow us Mainer's freedom of choice. This is the United States of America, the greatest country in the world, not a Communist/Socialist dictatorship. Kick this ridiculous legislation back to California. Us Mainers want no part of it!

Danny Emerson,
South Berwick