

Townsend, Erle

From: Elizabeth Jardine <ejardine@audiologymaine.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:06 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am opposed to any and all parts of the EV sales rule. Not only should it be illegal for an unelected board to mandate such restrictions, it is anti-democratic to regulate and restrict consumer choice in such a way. By passing this rule, you are interfering with the free market which should instead be driven by consumer demand. The Maine public clearly is NOT interested in purchasing EVs, as current sales prove. Maine people have common sense. Not only are EVs overpriced, but they are unreliable in cold weather, do poorly in hilly areas, and are totally unsuitable for long distances that people in a rural state like Maine must travel, despite the attempts of EV proponents to convince us otherwise.

I personally do not want to ride in these vehicles. The batteries are dangerous and can ignite in a garage or near a home. We have all seen cargo ships, carrying these death traps, burning uncontrollably. EVs will make us even more dependent on foreign countries providing the limited resources like lithium. And: How can it seriously be claimed that EVs are environmentally friendly? The process of extracting the materials needed to make EV batteries is not “environmentally friendly.” Neither is the disposal of the batteries once their life is depleted.

And I ask: How long can an EV go before the expensive batteries need replacing? Who can afford to do so? What happens when we get the frequent power outages which our rural, wooded state is prone to? I think your board got a taste of that when you had to delay your last proceedings. Certainly, that experience should give you pause about the wisdom of EV sale mandates.

By demanding adherence to this rule here are things you can expect in Maine: 1) Dealerships will close due to lack of new car sales, 2) the Maine economy will suffer, 3) the demand for used gas-powered cars will increase immensely, 4) the demand for used gas vehicles will increase prices which will hurt the Maine consumer, and 5) many of us will travel out of state to purchase a new vehicle rather than be forced to buy an unreliable, expensive and poorly designed EV.

We need to stop trying to replicate California rules. Maine is NOT California, and we DO NOT want to be. Please stop this terrible ruling now. Use common sense. If you don't, I guarantee you will see a statewide referendum succeed in repealing this unjust California-copied EV rule. There will not be a problem obtaining the referendum signatures, of that you can be certain.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Beal Jardine