

Townsend, Erle

From: swansislandcharters@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:17 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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Dear DEP Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Advanced Clean Cars 2 Program.

The extended opportunity to comment on this proposal was made possible by the failure of our electric grid. This failure was caused by weather conditions that rendered electric-dependent vehicles utterly useless. Weather conditions like this are not rare in our rural state. In fact, the failure occurred from a windstorm which thankfully, this time, was not accompanied by snow and ice. During conditions such as in '98, thousands in Maine lost power for weeks on end.

From my perspective of living on an un-bridged island, my eyes are clearly open to the fact that limiting access to affordable and dependable internal combustion engines threatens our rural and island populations' very existence.

Common sense goes out the window when policies creating EV dependence are preached, promoted, and propagated. Fixing something that isn't broken, and ignoring the obvious consequences undermines our resiliency during extreme weather events.

Requiring citizens (especially those of limited income) to purchase vehicles deemed carbon neutral while removing efficient hybrids and clean burning traditional options will force more families into poverty.

The more dependent on electricity we are for charging of EV's, the more risk to our sustainable communities. The more dependent we are on electricity for our heating sources, the more risk of suffering and freezing to our families. Electricity is not the answer to everything, and forcing Maine residents' dependency on an unreliable grid to power our transportation will set your fellow Mainers up for failure that is easily avoidable.

Maine's electrical infrastructure is decades away from having the ability to provide the reliable service necessary to consider passing a law limiting our state citizens' ability to acquire clean burning gas and diesel engines.

While some may think the law would simply inspire an advancement in new and reliable green transportation, those of us who live and work on Maine's islands know it is actually the removal of our ability to survive as islanders and coastal communities.

I humbly implore you to please oppose the passage of the Advanced Clean Cars 2 Program. It will do more harm than good!

Capt. Jason Joyce
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