

## Townsend, Erle

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**From:** Larry & Cathy Witham <clwitham@midmaine.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

**Categories:** Red Category

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I commented previously on this proposal before the hearing was postponed (ironically due to multi-day power outages all over the state) with many reasons why it should not go forward. I am adding to that comment to say that you should do a little research about how the vehicle manufacturers feel about this. I'm seeing several reports of manufacturers scaling back production because the EVs are NOT SELLING even with the government subsidizing the cost of the vehicle! You can't force people to buy EVs.

The initial cost of an EV doesn't even take into account the expense of a replacement battery later on, which can cost the amount of a whole new gas powered vehicle. That's a completely separate problem that the car owner is going to face one way or the other – either by buying a new battery (unlikely because it doesn't make sense to spend that much money for the age of the vehicle) or having a worthless vehicle to trade in for a new one. Bottom line is that many people are just barely getting by in this crazy economy, and Jerome Powell – Federal Reserve Chairman - admits the cost of most items will not decrease going forward. But we all knew that, didn't we! People are more interested in the basic necessities such as paying for a place to live and food to eat (i.e. existing), not in buying an EV. That's the reality of life in Maine and in many other places in this country. Policies such as the one being proposed will be the demise of people long before the earth is irreparably harmed. We also can't make up for all of the other countries that are building coal-fired energy plants by switching to EVs. It appears the goal is to make the U.S. just like all of the other 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries with the majority of its population in poverty. At least that appears to be where we're headed with policies like this.

People not being able to afford to purchase an EV is only one of the reasons they are not selling. You have to understand that you cannot force normal, reasonable people to buy a vehicle that doesn't work well for Maine's climate and geography and that relies on the power grid when electricity is so expensive (which is another whole subject that Maine is going bonkers over).

One of the worst things about this whole proposal is that you're modeling it after California. While California has beautiful landscapes, it's policies, including this one, are terrible. Do you want Maine to be like California???? I sure don't! It's in freefall with its fiscal policies, crime, etc. If people want the same policies as California, why not move there instead of turning Maine into "Maineifornia?" They should have plenty of room now due to all of the people leaving there.

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