

Townsend, Erle

From: Linc Merrill <metinic@aol.com>
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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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I am opposed to the adoption of this rule which leads to the forced purchase of electric vehicles by Maine people and businesses. Consumers must make their own choices when it comes to any purchase including automobiles. If you want one, buy one. Don't force everyone else to have them and pay for theirs as well through subsidies.

Electric automobiles are proving to be unpopular for many people and their sales are estimated to be in decline around the country. Hertz is getting rid of 20,000 of their electric cars. The electric grid is not robust enough to handle solar and wind power and the demand from the use of electric vehicles. Backup power must be increasingly available for providing this power when other generation sources are not available and those sources are NOT clean energy.

Electric cars are more expensive to repair, have lower resale value, and wear out tires at a much quicker rate than gasoline vehicles. Those tires are not clean either. Electric cars do not pay the fuel taxes that fund our roads. Electric cars often rely on "free fuel" at charging stations that are paid for with public tax dollars like at schools and municipal buildings. Residents without electric cars pay to fuel those that do and if it is done with solar panels on a municipal building, the other taxpayers have to pay more to provide the fuel because not all the solar revenue generated from those panels goes to offset their property taxes.

We own antique cars and equipment that run on gasoline or diesel. If the infrastructure to support petroleum use declines, what are we to do for fuel?

Please let the market decide what types of vehicle to buy and when. Don't mandate it.

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