

## Townsend, Erle

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**From:** Melissa Burns <mburns@johnbapst.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:13 AM  
**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 writing to let you know I am **not** in support of this legislation that has been pushed through by special interest groups now being brought to the State of Maine Congress. **This is not a proactive move for Maine.** Please note, the topics I am bringing up here are from my own personal life and experience....

I am a professional, single mother, who rents a small 2 bedroom apartment for \$1450/month (just under 1/2 of my monthly earnings). Currently I am barely able to survive pay check to pay check. In the past I have been able to save a put a little away for a rainy-day, but that has not been possible in the past 3 years due to rising costs of everything (food, electric bills, rent, gas, etc). My savings are now dwindling month to month. I have not been able to purchase a new car due to costs. I will keep my older vehicle until a miracle comes along.

All that said raises huge concerns for me (and many others in similar situations):

1. Rental owners will need to update their rental situation to accommodate charging. This will be costly and will **raise rents**. I'm unsure how my son and I will be able to afford ANY rent at this point (my rent is the lowest in my complex because they took pity on me and my cancer fight this year - Lord knows what they will be gracious enough to offer me in years to come). And let me reiterate... I AM A PROFESSIONAL and have been teaching for over 33 years. At this point in my life, I should NOT be working pay check to pay check, let alone be paying this kind of rent and now worrying about where on earth we will live if I can't keep up with the bills. **This "Clean Cars" program will raise already exorbitant rents.**

2. In addition to the raise of rent, **our electricity bill will reach new heights**. I'm barely able to keep up with the bill now, I can't imagine "fueling" a car with outrageous electric bills.

When I first moved into this apartment 6 years ago, my electric bill averaged \$60, and up to \$90-100 with 2 air conditioners going in the summer. THIS year my average bill is \$140, with up to \$300 a month with 2 air conditioners going in the summer. **These electric hikes are RIDICULOUS, and to ask us to charge vehicles is going to put these bills far far far out of reach.**

3. And let's just talk about the COST of a car. Even as a frugal professional (I am very careful with my money), I am not going to be able to save money due to exorbitant costs of living (mentioned above), and now you are going to force me to buy a car for easily \$50,000+...? This here alone should be unacceptable. **We should have the liberty to purchase a vehicle of our choice in order to keep working and surviving.** Getting rid of gas options that ARE affordable, is not helping the working Mainer.

4. We live in Maine. This year alone myself, as well as loved ones, have been without electricity due to various storms (during all seasons). This will wreak havoc for those of us needing to go to work and not be able to have a working vehicle in which to go to and fro. - Not to mention my mother is aging and I'm her sole caregiver. If I can't get to her due to a car not being able to be charged.....Lord have mercy on the souls who allowed this to happen! **Maine is an aging community and there are many elderly relying on reliable care.**

We recently lived through days (some over a week) where Mainers had no power ... and your initial Board of Environmental Protection meeting about this proposal was postponed. ***The irony is not lost on anyone*** - this alone should be a reason to disband this ludicrous plan.

5. Again...We live in Maine. It's cold. It's no secret that **batteries do not work well in cold weather** (I know many who have examples to corroborate this). These cold batteries have been known to give off less than 50% of a full charge due to chill. This is a terrible move for any cold-weather state.

6. And let's face it....Facts are Facts... batteries for EVs are FAR ***more dangerous for the environment*** than drilling for natural oil. Anyone reading ALL the info out there knows this is true. I love Maine. I love its clean air and thriving forests and ocean. Let's not damage it with the EV lies and propaganda.

In Conclusion:

Moving to this new set of emissions standards being proposed would be beyond burdensome... and 100% impractical for Maine. FORCING the purchasing of EVs in the future should not be an option. **HAVING the option to buy one should be on the consumer, not at the vote and mandate of the government.**

Please consider the Mainers who need to survive with these rising costs, who are already struggling, and consider the fact this proposal is elitist at best, abusive to hard working Mainers at worst.

Thank you.

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**MELISSA BURNS**

~ John Bapst Memorial H.S

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