

Townsend, Erle

From: patricia barber <rugbyvet88@yahoo.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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1/28/2024
Patricia Barber
Opposition to ACCII

To the Maine Board of Environmental Protection,

Think of all of our rural mechanics and auto repair shops!! Adopting this ruling will devastate their businesses.

My partner has been a rural auto repair shop owner for decades, now retired.

A stated goal for this mandate is by encouraging more new EVs to be sold, then there will be more used EVs for sale as a result.

As stated in the Maine Climate Council Transportation Working Group meeting last month, it is documented that people in rural areas buy used vehicles over new. This fact is why rural mechanics are essential partners in repairing people's vehicles.

Yet profit margins in rural repair shops are exceedingly thin. Repair of EVs will take additional training, diagnostic testing, equipment, and waste disposal, all of which are incredibly expensive for a 1 or 2 person repair shop.

Non-EV computerization, with the need to upgrade constantly changing repair and diagnostic data, has already forced many rural mechanic to close up shop and move to other jobs. The Return on Investment did not justify the continued expense.

Now add EV technology to the mix and I guarantee you that it will be another nail in the coffin of rural auto repair businesses. People who own EVs will have to travel great distances just to get maintenance and repairs, at a cost many of them cannot afford. Let alone what if they break down and need to be towed? I cant imagine how much it would cost to get a car towed from here in Hiram 1 hour to Portland or Biddeford for repair.

This mandate is just wrong for rural Mainers in so many ways. We need to be putting our climate mitigation dollars towards mass transportation options such as trains so everyone can get where they need to go without a car!

Sincerely,
Patty Barber Hiram

