

Townsend, Erle

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My name is Richard Shapiro. I live in Brunswick. The following are my comments on the proposed EV mandate.

Thank you for reading, and understanding, my position on this subject:

This proposed mandate is, frankly, insane.

The comparatively few EV drivers in other cold states are discovering that their effective range is dramatically cut, and that their chargers either stop working or take far longer to charge, in any severe cold snap.

Drivers of fairly new EVs routinely get hit with \$20,000-\$50,000 repair bills to replace batteries that were environmentally catastrophic to create and cannot be safely repaired. How can sane people possibly pretend that Mainers can afford that kind of damage – insurance is not going to cover these replacements going forward – not at rates Mainers can afford. And, yes, we're starting to see insurance companies react to the economic nightmare that is EV accidents, fires, and even water damage from leaking windows and trim.

Less than half the existing chargers in areas that have larger numbers of electric vehicles can be kept running at any one time. That makes the issue infinitely worse. Don't forget that when a US government official decided to make a publicity tour via EV, she was, in real world terms, unable to complete it in a realistic manner available to a mere citizen and not a member of the government elite. She had to have agents in gasoline powered vehicles "reserve" chargers for her by blocking citizen access. That wasn't a good look, was it?

It takes 2 minutes to "gas up" a car. It takes anywhere from 20 minutes to 8 hours to charge an EV. We would need many, many, more chargers than we have space to put them on our busy highways. We'd need huge rest stops every couple of miles. Travel would become an unbearable ordeal.

And, let's not forget that we, here in Maine, are subject to numerous, lengthy, power outages. I've personally been subject to a 6 day outage only a few years ago (my 3rd outage of that length in the past 30 years). I wouldn't have just been out of power, I'd also have been rendered immobile. That is unacceptable.

I shouldn't need to point out that, in an emergency, destroying the mobility of a population that might need to evacuate is, at best a nightmare and at worst murder.

Rental companies are dumping their electric fleets because they can't afford them.

Poor, aging, overtaxed, over-regulated, rural, mainers who drive long distances and will not have access to a charging network for decades, should be NOT forced by legislative fiat to buy such staggeringly expensive and unreliable vehicles.

And, what makes people think that folks in California, with a very different climate, a very different geography, and an unimaginably different (and larger) economy should be able to dictate to Mainers what vehicles they are allowed to buy?

As we do the math, based on the number of gallons of gasoline burned each year and the energy contained in those gallons of fuel, even taking into account the percentage efficiency of internal combustion engines, we discover to our horror that the US would have to increase its generating capacity by over 40% to replace gasoline alone. And, I would note that our local grids can't handle that kind of load even IF we weren't waging a war against fossil fuels – an incredibly stupid thing to do, given the unreliability and unaffordability of “renewable” energy sources. One day, I hope, the technology will advance far enough to make reliance on these sources here in the United States possible. But, in the real world – we're decades away from that. Yet, people still seek this premature mandate.

Please, bury this mandate in the garbage heap of history – where it belongs.