

Townsend, Erle

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Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 4:37 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Cc: Brakey, Eric
Subject: Chapter 127-A Electric Vehicle Rule

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I am sure you have heard most of the objections to forcing electric vehicles upon Maine car dealers and consumers, price, range reliability, etc., but I would like to add one more.

No government has the authority to legislate sales or sales mix. People will buy what they want, based on their needs and ability to pay. If most of them don't want EVs they won't buy them. They will buy either increasingly scarce gasoline cars, reconditioned older gas cars (as in Cuba), alternate fuel cars or public transportation.

Maine's public transportation system is so sparse that the only people who can depend on it are the approximately 13% living in major cities. Everyone else needs a car, motorcycle, boat, ATV or snowmobile, or a friend with one, or they are stuck within walking distance of home.

EVs will eventually become practical and affordable, but it won't happen by government mandate. This law would condemn 1.2 million Mainers to gradual loss of transportation. This in turn would lead Mainers to illegal solutions such as counterfeit registrations stating a gas car is an EV and out of state purchase of gas cars.

Already there is a nation wide surplus of unwanted EVs on dealer lots caused by manufactured production in excess of customer demand. The proposed law would exacerbate this problem and drive most Maine dealers out of business.

Maine is a beautiful state and most of us are still here because we love it, but it has become an expensive and difficult place to live. Don't make it worse.

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