

Townsend, Erle

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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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Good evening,

Regarding the proposed Advanced Clean Cars II Program, forcing Mainers to purchase electric vehicles is ill conceived and Maine should not be following policies set forth by the State of California. Maine has a history of trail blazing but in this case EVs are not a practical option for the majority of Mainers. Forcing EVs without the infrastructure being in place is a recipe for disaster. Maine will see rolling blackouts because the current electrical grid will not support the number of electric vehicles that the mandate will force. The drawbacks of EVs are well documented. The current EV/battery technology only has an average range of 250-300 miles between charges. The range is dependent on ideal conditions (warmer temperatures). During winter months, the heater in an EV uses the battery to run the heater and further reduces the range. The replacement cost for a battery is in the ballpark of \$20,000. How many Mainers can afford a \$50,000 car and then in 8 years can afford a \$20,000 battery replacement. EVs have a very poor record as used vehicles. Even EV dealers are finding that they are having difficulty selling their inventory.

I travel quite a bit for work (approximately 3,500 miles) and there are days that I need to travel nearly 600 miles a day. That would require that I would have to start the day with a fully charged battery. Manufacturers recommend that you do not allow the battery to drop below 20% charge. The days I have to travel 600 miles, I would have to stop approximately 60 miles short of my first destination and charge a minimum of 4 hours to get back to 100% charge. I would have to charge again well short of my residence. My company will have to pay 8 hours of overtime and my trip will take 20-24 hours instead of 12-14. My job also requires me to be on standby as I work on an emergency communications system. This requires that I be on call. What happens when I arrive home and the vehicle is at 20% charge and I get called to go 300 miles? Do I tell my customer and my boss, "Sorry, I can respond for at least 4 hours and won't get there for at least 8 hours."

While I think EVs time will come, we are at least 30 to 40 years away until the battery technology and the electrical grid can support the number of vehicles these mandates propose. There is also the issue of battery fires. Some insurance companies will not cover a home if a charging station is installed inside of a garage and the vehicle is charged in the garage.

In closing, I urge that the committee abandons these mandates and let the people of Maine decide what they want to drive.

Thomas Poto,
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