

Townsend, Erle

From: Tyna Rolon <rolontyna3@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:41 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: ZEV's and Maine BEP

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Hello-

I'm writing to share my opinions regarding the upcoming decision regarding zero emission/electric vehicles.

I'm strongly opposed to mandating 43% of new cars sold in Maine be zero emissions vehicles by 2027 and 82% by 2032.

I have a number of reasons for my position.

- 1. The cost of electric vehicles.** These vehicles are 25% more expensive than gas powered counterparts. This is an oppressive ask to most Mainers who are barely getting by due to rising inflation and living costs.
- 2. BEP shouldn't be deciding this measure.** Why are Maine residents unable to vote on this issue? Why are a select few deciding on this measure without Mainers input? BEP are Maine employees and are working for our interests and should be valuing our input.
- 3. Location** We live in Maine. It's a cold state with harsh winters. EV's do not do well in cold climates. I live in Aroostook County, where the weather is significantly harsher than southern Maine and driving is a necessity. I spoke with a car dealer in Bangor regarding EV's and his suggestions. He didn't recommend anyone living in Aroostook County to purchase an EV. It would be a hail Mary to drive to Bangor from the County in an EV without needing a charge. The problem is there are no charging stations between my home and Bangor. Who would purchase a car that couldn't drive long distances? I for one would not. I don't have the money to purchase 2 vehicles-1 for a work commute (EV) and 1 for long drives (gas powered). This is what the salesman suggested...only using an EV for work commutes especially in Aroostook County.
- 4. Infrastructure** There are not many charging stations in my area. I would need to install a charging port in my home. This is another costly expenditure most Mainers cannot afford. Also, electric costs have increased drastically in the last 2 years mainly because the state is offering taxpayer funded subsidies to companies installing solar farms in Maine. Mainers are already paying increased electric costs and kickbacks to non-Maine companies to build solar farms in our backyards. Installing and charging a vehicle in my home will drive my electric costs even higher.
- 5. California Laws in Maine** Why are we trying to be like CA? Maine has far fewer cars on the road and better air quality. Why is there a push for this measure? Mainers and their cars are not the problem. It would be better to focus on pursuing ways to get other countries' polluting ways under control.

Please remember that state employees work for the Maine people. We fund your paycheck. Mainers are having difficulty paying their everyday bills. It's become more difficult to afford a middle class life in Maine as we are paying more for everyday items and services and are being "pinched" for pet projects led by a select few legislators and Maine leaders without our input.

I appreciate your consideration and time in reading my concerns and comments.

Sincerely,

Tyna Rolon
Mars Hill, ME resident