

## Townsend, Erle

---

**From:** Amelia Dence <amelia.dence@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 10:31 PM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

One of the beauties of living in Maine is the vast amount of rural land we have and the low population density that allows for an abundance of natural resources and beauty. This also means that many Mainers face long commutes on rural backroads where one can often go miles without encountering another car and where gas stations other services are few and far between. Maine also has a disproportionately high percentage of low income families that live at or below the poverty line. Forcing Mainers to give up their autonomy, money, and potentially put themselves at risk of losing power while driving is deplorable. We are NOT California. Maine has long maintained clean air and pristine natural resources without the need for intervention of government entities and we should not be looking to state that has been known for the pollution that defines its urban centers as an example of how we should care for the state of Maine.

Maine's bid to adopt similar standards is foolhardy at best and downright dangerous at worst. EV vehicles are not the "clean" energy they are proposed to be. The rare earth minerals used in building the batteries are done so through strip mining, a process that completely destroys the surrounding area. There have also been countless human rights abuses, including child labor and what amounts to slave labor, documented as Chinese entities own a disproportionately large share of the companies that mine the minerals for the components. The environmental impact that goes into making EVs is much further reaching than the impact ICE vehicles have on both humans and the environment.

On top of that the technology has not advanced far enough to ensure that in our extreme winters EV will be able to maintain the battery life necessary to get a person safely from point A to point B. Given the rural nature of our state a person left stranded is at an extreme risk of death from exposure to the cold. We are NOT California. California has a much larger infrastructure, the economy is significantly larger than the Maine economy, and the state is much less rural than our state is. Trying to compete with California in anything and force Mainers into the same standards as Californians are forced into is not what is best for the constituents of THIS state, nor is it the will of the people.

The Declaration of independence states that, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..." In addition to this section, and the entirety, of the Declaration of Independence that Maine State Constitution begins with, "We the people of Maine, in order to establish justice, insure tranquility, provide for our mutual defense, promote our common welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of liberty, acknowledging with grateful hearts the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe in affording us an opportunity, so favorable to the design; and, imploring God's aid and direction in its accomplishment, do agree to form ourselves into a free and independent State, by the style and title of the State of Maine and do ordain and establish the following Constitution for the government of the same." It's time we remember that we are an independent and sovereign state with the United States of America, Mainers are a sovereign people and our elected officials are there to represent the will of the people and not organizations with outside interests, and we are entitled to our God given and inalienable rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

I do not support any legislation that would force me to purchase an EV or any other piece of personal property that is not up to my sole discretion and beholden to the will of others.

Amelia Dence

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows