

## Townsend, Erle

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**From:** Brian Sawtelle <briansawtelle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:00 PM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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I find it rather discouraging that a small group of unelected people are going to possibly create a rule for the State of Maine in such a manner.

The citizens of Maine elect Representatives and Senators to create law. If the people are unhappy with something that is passed, there is recourse through the petition process/referendum vote. However, any decisions by this board are not open to this petition/referendum process that ensures the citizens actual control over the state.

Maine currently does not have the infrastructure for an edict such as what is being considered here. If anything we have a very fragile infrastructure that a large storm such as we saw this last December shut down power to a number of our citizens. No power = no charging an EV.

Maine's cold weather and hilly terrain will put a strain on the batteries of these vehicles.

The batteries are susceptible to fire, and that creates a hazzard for rescue crews to have to overcome in an emergency.

For the effort of saving the environment, this proposal actual encourages the destruction of the environment by supporting the strip mining process needed to procure the materials needed to build these very expensive batteries.

The expense of the vehicles and the corresponding cost of electricity can and will put the expense of buying and maintaining on of these vehicles out of range of most Maine families. In a time of political, societal, economic, and international uncertainty, do we feel it is proper to place such a mandate upon the citizens of Maine.

Maine does not need California style regulations concerning out vehicles. Let the consumers decide what their desire is when buying products. Such a decision can open the citizens of Maine up to other mandates that they have no control over. This can place a small group of people in total control over the lives of our citizens. This is more a danger to American democracy than other things I have seen during my lifetime.

I ask what impact is this going to serve in the climate change concerns? Maine's population is one of the smallest in the nation and is spread over one of the largest states east of the Mississippi. The number of vehicles in the state cannot impact the environment as much as it would in California.

The amount of travel our citizens need to make daily, weekly, or monthly is also problematic. Travel from Houlton to Bangor would require charging stations along the interstate. This falls back to the lack of infrastructure within the state.

I am unsure why the current administration and appointed committees are intent to do as much damage as possible to our state. It is good to remember that the rights of the few should not be infringed upon by power of the majority.

Creating a mandate on EVs is just the opening of the door that cannot be closed again. What will the next mandate be? What other areas of the citizens lives start being infringed upon?

Maine's impact upon the environment with our vehicles does not justify an overreach of this appointed government agency.

It is commendable that the committee is trying to find ways to place Maine at the forefront of environmental issues, but this is just not a good decision for the citizens of Maine.

Thank you for your time in reading this message.

Very Respectfully,

Brian Sawtelle  
Dexter, Maine