

## Townsend, Erle

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**From:** Craig Mercier <craigmercier@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 11:12 AM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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To Whom it may concern,

I am deeply concerned that Maine is attempting to adopt EV rules set by states who do not experience the same environmental and seasonal conditions that Maine does. Chicago experienced issues relating to EV charging and limited infrastructure to support influx in cars needing charging as discussed in the New York Times article dated 1/17/2024 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/17/business/tesla-charging-chicago-cold-weather.html>). Additionally, CBS news reported on 01/18/2024 how cold weather reduces battery life, increases time to charge and cold temperature effects on EVs (see <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/teslas-electric-vehicles-cold-weather/>). If a large metropolitan, such as Chicago, sees EV's struggling in major winter storms and freezing temperatures, Maine has no chance at providing an infrastructure or resources necessary to accommodate EVs if the state mandates a larger percentage of citizens to own them.

Furthermore, back in June of 2023, the Bangor Daily news reported that Maine has 433 Fire Departments of which 338 are run by Volunteer Fire fighters. The costs to procure all the required equipment to fight electric vehicle fires far exceeds most of those volunteer fire department budgets. Water and foam alone are not sufficient to fully extinguish EV fires. They can reignite if not properly fought with appropriate equipment which can cost \$2000-\$4000 (for EV blankets) which are used by LAFD, NYPD and other major departments throughout the US who have million dollars budgets.

For the above reasons, I am vehemently opposed to any proposal seeking to mandate use or purchase of Electric Vehicles within the State of Maine. We do not have the infrastructure in place to support a significant increase in the number of EVs, the Fire Department resources to combat EV fires and the impact on life of EV batteries due to our cold climate. Maine is not ready for EVs the same way other states are.

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Livermore Falls, ME