

Townsend, Erle

From: Debra Hall <debrahallgr@gmail.com>
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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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My husband and I, Robert Hall, are residents of Rockport Maine, having owned a home here for 25 years. Bob was also born in Maine and his family hails from Millinocket. We are both attorneys with decades of regulatory experience on both a national and international level.

We are opposed to the proposed rulemaking. Changes that drastically change / constrict human behavior should not be the subject of unilateral rulemaking. As a representative democracy we have legislatures to consider and decide upon issues of this magnitude – not unelected State employees. In our legal field (insurance and reinsurance), California is known for its sweeping, non-representative rulemaking – often imposing rules that are not allowed by law or even the rules themselves – called “desk drawer” rules. The point – California is not a State that we should be modeling Maine life upon. Indeed, we moved to Maine because it is decidedly NOT like California. The fact that California and New York have seen the largest exodus of population in the last few years should inform Maine policymakers that people are fleeing California due to high taxes, and unwanted policies and regulations like the one being considered here. The people have spoken – and they are NOT embracing California policies. Maine cannot afford to be a California wanna-be.

The reasons why people are not buying EV vehicles are many: flawed premise and practices in manufacture; the fact they don't work in cold weather (this is Maine for goodness sake!); lack of sufficient infrastructure for charging; vehicle cost; and more. Consumers must have choice – and if they are to be deprived of that choice which will significantly affect their lives, it must be a decision of elected representatives not unilateral rulemaking. Using the rulemaking process for such decisions is inconsistent with the foundations of our government structure.