

The Ellsworth American

Thursday, September 7, 2023

## Time for a wake-up call

Dear Editor:

I implore Maine residents to wake up, especially in the Second District. Why would anyone in their right mind want a \$60,000 EV when conventional gasoline or hybrids deliver 30-45 miles per gallon? How can Maine adopt California-style vehicle emission standards as petitioned by the Natural Resources Council of Maine? This is the same group that has supported ripping up our ridges and mountaintops for industrial wind farms and destroying precious farmland for hundreds of thousands of solar panels.

Maine can't even afford to keep its secondary roads from collapsing because of recent rainstorms, never mind oncoming ice and snowstorms, potholes, dirt roads and power failures. Until I see building contractors and lobster fishermen trading in their Chevys, GMCs and Fords for EV trucks that lose their efficiency with payloads and freezing weather I will remain convinced that EVs are a fraud, unaffordable and a total waste of money, besides depleting valuable minerals all over the world.

Three short years ago CMP's total electricity rate was 16.5 cents per kilowatt hour. It is now nearly 30 cents, an increase of 80 percent. No wonder 60,000 CMP customers have received disconnection notices. No EVs for them! If the Pine Tree Power referendum is approved this fall and the new utility expropriates our two public utilities and puts taxpayers on the hook for \$13.5 billion of debt, no one but the elites will be able to afford a car, much less an electric one.

In addition to another bureau full of

## Letters cont.

political insiders and ineffective officials who have over the last 30 years shown not to be able to run anything efficiently, witness these failures starting with the 1990 Workers Comp insurance fiasco, Dirigo health insurance, Maine Housing Authority, Maine Turnpike Authority, squandering the tobacco settlement funds, state liquor contract sold to Massachusetts and the continuing mess in the UMaine system. Did I miss anything?

Many newspaper readers know that I am not blowing smoke with my continuing editorial missiles but also know that I care deeply about our fair state and its residents, especially the middle class, which is being squeezed on every political and economic front. Thomas Jefferson, on Nov. 13, 1787, wrote in part, "What country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to

time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance ... the tree of liberty must be refreshed..." I think it is time right now!

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