

## Townsend, Erle

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**From:** Julie Downs <julie.downs@fivetowns.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 11:18 AM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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When I moved to Maine 25 years ago, one of the biggest shocks I received was the size of my electric bill. I moved from a large 3-story Victorian house to a small, two-story ranch, but my electric bill doubled. In the years since, it has only gone up.

Maine is not California and, believe it or not, we don't have to pretend that we are.

(1) I am lucky to live on a somewhat major road, and when the power goes out it is rarely more than 12 hours or so before it is restored. But I am lucky. In the December 18th storm which caused, so ironically, the delay in the vote on this rule, a woman who I work with was without power for 5 days. We lose power all the time. It's a fact of life, and many have generators, everyone has a gas stove, many have wood-powered heat to cope with it. I just can't imagine trying to charge a car under these conditions. Most people I know don't even have a garage to shelter their cars. I'm sure you are all aware of what happened to the good people of Chicago during their most recent cold spell!

(2) Our roads break up every few years because of the weather and it wasn't that long ago that our local ambulance service refused to service the area because the roads were so bad. "Sorry I'm late - I had to take Route 52) bumper stickers were everywhere. We had to start the bus routes 10 minutes earlier in order to get the students here on time. EVs are considerably heavier than gas-powered cars, and will only add to the destruction winter wrecks on the roads every year.

(3) Finally, the cost. I am lucky enough that if I wanted to, I could afford an EV but most people in my area (Hope/Appleton/Lincolntonville) cannot. I only have a one-car garage, so I'm not sure where the other car would charge from - maybe we'd have to swap one in and the other out in the middle of the night so both my husband and I can get to work the next day?

Please let the market take care of this issue. If people want EVs, let them have them. If they don't, stop forcing this technology down their throats.

Sincerely,

Julie Downs  
Lincolntonville, ME