

Townsend, Erle

From: monaarruda7@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 4:43 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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Hello,

I strongly appose the Electric Vehicle Mandate.

I will NEVER buy an electric car. To even think that I could be forced to buy an electric car is unconstitutional. No one can tell me which vehicle I can purchase.

I have personal friends whose electric car caught fire while driving down the interstate with husband and wife and two children in the car. Fortunately for them they were able to pull off to the side of the road and with the help of nearby people they were able to get out of the car while the car burned. It was a Toyota and Toyota will not cover the cost of the car, their insurance won't cover it. And now they are paying for two cars with one they do not even own any more. It was a newer vehicle only being 2 years old.

Not only that, I am seeing instances of people with battery issues are paying more for the battery than it was to purchase a new electric car.

There is no way I could afford an electric car and it will not suit my purposes in this extreme weather conditions we have here in Maine. Let alone to pay for the electric bill it would produce every month. It is totally unreliable to think that I would have to charge a vehicle just to run it.

Salt on battery is dangerous. That means any winter weather I would have to avoid salt on the roads. That is not even conceivable in New England.

On another note, here is information from this website - Union of Concerned Scientist: <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/ev-batteries>

Most electric vehicle batteries are lithium based and rely on a mix of cobalt, manganese, nickel, and graphite and other primary components. Some of [these materials](#) are harder to find than others, though none should be classified as "rare earth metals."

There are important issues surrounding battery production that must be acknowledged and addressed. For example, [over 60%](#) of the global supply for cobalt comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which has a poor human rights track record; international organizations have denounced for years the exploitative labor practices involved in cobalt production.

Just because you buy an electric car you think you are helping the environment but the method to produce that electric car is not by electric means so it defeats the purpose.

Electric cars are more suited for states that have the Electrical Infrastructure to handle it and do not have extreme winter weather conditions where our power goes out every high wind and heavy snow storm for days. The last power outage

was 2-1/2 days. Last year we had a power outage for 3-1/2 days. I can't count on an electric car to be charged when I need it most.

I have to visit my grand children in Vermont and that is a 3 hour drive or even to VA to visit my friends that is 16 hours away. What if something happens while I'm on the road and have no source of power to charge the car. What then? Call AAA to come via truck (gas powered) to charge my car (using a gas powered generator)? Does that even make sense?

You might say get a Hybrid that has both electric and gas. DOES THAT EVEN MAKE SENSE? NO. Your still using gas and if I'm still using gas what difference does it make?

My husband is 82 years old with a heart condition and there is no way we can have an unreliable method of transportation when he could have a heart issue.

I have listed here the dangers, unreliability, the cost factor, electric infrasture issues, the human rights issue, and especially taking away my rights. That is none of the state of Maine business which car I choose to purchase.

There are too many variables here that make it hard on Maine families who I know who do not even have the money to purchase an older used car let alone an electric vehicle that could have a battery issue here in New England.

Please reject this electric vehicle mandate!

Thank you,
Mona Arruda
Bryant Pond, Maine