

Townsend, Erle

From: Ducharme, Jack <Jack.Ducharme@legislature.maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:58 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

Please do not enact this rule 127-A for the State of Maine. The events leading up to the cancelled vote on December 18, 2023 should be evidence enough to forestall this. If you look across the landscape of the State of Maine, you will find that it is very different than other states that are enacting these types of rules. We have vast stretches of real estate with very few people. Our climate is often too cold for these vehicles to have sufficient range to cover the distances that we often travel in Maine. As we already know, we do not have the infrastructure necessary for widespread adoption of zero emissions vehicles. The charging infrastructure alone is woefully deficient. Further, the electrical grid capacity cannot provide the necessary power to charge twice the zero-emissions vehicles that we currently have, let alone charge a state mandated number. While the State seems determined to add charging capacity, who pays for the capacity in small towns where there are very few people? Who pays for the charger in townships where there are only dirt roads and no electrical lines. The answer to these questions are the Maine taxpayer. They cannot afford to do this!

Proponents say that they are not proposing "California style" rules for Mainers but the petition itself, signed by 150 voters suggests otherwise in your own fact sheet. These rules will effectively put many businesses out of business. They will not be able to purchase vehicles that meet their needs nor will they be able to keep them on the road due to grid capacity. The last thing that we need in Maine are rules that have a negative impact on our businesses. Even in the car business, dealers report that they have ZEV vehicles on the lot that they cannot sell because the market doesn't want them. Manufacturers such as Ford and GM are scaling back their ZEV production because it is not profitable for them at this time.

This rule and its companion Rule 128, applied to trucks over 8,500 GVW do not belong in Maine. Please oppose these rules and vote against their passage. Mainers cannot afford this, our businesses cannot afford this, and it should be defeated at the Board level and NOT sent to the Legislature. If it is passed at the Board level, I suspect that it will be repealed in the Legislature. Maine people have had enough of these California rules.

Respectfully,

Rep. Jack Ducharme
ME House District 71
Madison, Norridgewock, and Cornville
207-431-0775

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