

Townsend, Erle

From: Sue Butler <sbutler202@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, December 29, 2023 7:50 AM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Re: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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This is a short addendum to my comments above. Below is a link to New Scientist article that addresses the lack of adequate electric infrastructure in North America in the broader sense, not just charging stations for EVs. Mandating something that is unsupported by the existing infrastructure is a fool's errand. Being politically correct, "woke" and/or climate change champions is insufficient when the decisions being made create real challenges to the quality of life, health, and safety of its residents. Residents that have to experience brownouts and blackouts during extreme weather because of surges in electrical use is a safety issue. It is precisely during those times (heat waves, blizzards, northeasters) that residents need electricity the most. No decision should be mandated to force these adverse (blackout) outcomes on Maine citizens. Find a way to be politically correct, "woke", and climate change champions without mandates. Find a way to honor the democratic construct of this country.

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2409679-much-of-north-america-may-face-electricity-shortages-starting-in-2024/>

From: Sue Butler <sbutler202@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 2:36:27 PM
To: rulecomments.dep@maine.gov <rulecomments.dep@maine.gov>
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

I strongly disagree with this mandate. It merely exchanges environmental "hazards" in the form of uncertain ability to recycle old cars and batteries, the growing emergence of data that EV trade in and used car value is nearly nonexistent due to rapid changes in technology, and the sourcing of critical metals/materials is often done in 3rd world countries by children creating huge environmental impacts (albeit "there" not here). We will soon have toxic dump sites everywhere in the state.

Governments that are in the habit of issuing mandates for consumer choices are emblematic of communist countries, countries with dictators, and socialistic countries. Government mandates for consumer choices are not an inherent part of a democratic, capitalistic society like the US. Capitalism has its shortcomings but these can and should be mitigated by incentives to consumers, not mandates. Although even incentives don't fix the other issues I raise in this email.

In addition, Maine has among the poorest infrastructure to support EVs. Mandating EVs without both a robust EV charging network AND a robust electrical grid that isn't prone to blackouts or brown outs would need to be in place for this mandate to make a lick of sense.

Also, this mandate is easily defeated...people can buy their cars in other states. So it ruins the car dealership businesses in Maine for the unwoke "woke" (those that cannot understand that there is no magic bullet and that this mandate creates just as bad, if not worse, environmental impacts.)

Please let logic and an understanding of 2nd and 3rd order effects factor into the decision process. Please do not just do the politically correct, knee jerk action to mandate in order to falsely feel good about taking action.

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