

## Townsend, Erle

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**From:** Burke, Ruth A  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 14, 2024 1:52 PM  
**To:** Townsend, Erle; Cayting, Lynne A  
**Cc:** Hinkel, Bill  
**Subject:** FW: BEP question/comment

Please see comment below.

Ruth Ann Burke  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection Board of Environmental Protection  
Commissioner's Office

-----Original Message-----

From: tom.white@juno.com <tom.white@juno.com>  
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2024 8:13 AM  
To: Hinkel, Bill <Bill.Hinkel@maine.gov>  
Cc: Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov>  
Subject: BEP question/comment

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To: BEP  
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Email: tom.white@juno.com  
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Question or Comment

I encourage you to not mandate any sale or production of EVs. I'm a retire pastor but my undergraduate degree decades ago was environmental science. I've been studying climate science again for 15 or so years. There is no significant anthropogenic global warming/climate change. We are almost 12,000 years into the Holocene interglacial which is characterized by gradual warming. There have been natural exceptions to that trend such as the Roman and Medieval Warm Periods. Since coming out of the Little Ice Age by the mid-19th century warming has resumed and glacial melt began. This summer we experienced the warmth from a strong El Nino and the Hunga-Tonga volcano.

CO2 is .04% (400-420ppm) of the atmosphere. The human contribution is 3 – 5% of that. I've read articles estimating that transportation is 11 – 29% of that. Road transportation is a further percentage of that. We are talking about a miniscule portion even if one believes in anthropogenic causation.

I'm thinking of the "unfunded mandate" concept. I suggest a different approach to encouraging 'alternative energy' usage. Our electrical grid is not built to accommodate large increases in usage, especially the intensive type desired for EV charging. Instead of mandating EV production, why not build infrastructure, including charging stations? This will help consumers feel more comfortable with the ability to drive their EVs greater distances. Like road and bridge maintenance, this seems to be an endeavor more appropriate for state government.

Every 'alternative energy' has side effects. I have been a hydro-electric proponent for decades. In his book Arctic Blue Desserts, local author Stephen Kasprzak discusses the impact of Hydro Quebec's massive dams and reservoirs (and Russia's). In addition to warming the Gulf of Maine and disrupting the eco system, these appear to be warming the Arctic. If true, this is anthropogenic warming but it isn't about CO2. Mining rare earth elements for EV batteries is highly pollutive. Child labor in Congo mines has been documented.

There is no need to mandate EV usage. However, if the state wishes to encourage their use, I suggest building/strengthening the infrastructure is a better approach.