

Townsend, Erle

From: Valene Thacker <valene.thacker.f82b3@advocacy.online>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 10:59 AM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: OPPOSE - Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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Lynne Cayting,

The proposed rule to mandate the sale of light-duty electric vehicles in Maine is costly, unrealistic, and reduces consumer choice. Please oppose this proposed rule that would, as revised, require that 51% of the vehicles sold in Maine must be electric vehicles starting with the 2028 model year.

Maine automobile dealers are significant employers and are responsible for substantial community involvement and giving. This rule is burdensome and costly for dealers. The California rule that this proposal is based on defines "sale" in such a way as to mean the transaction between the manufacturer and the dealership, not the purchase by an end user. Any penalties assessed as a result of this rule would fall on the manufacturers.

As a result, manufacturers would take steps to avoid penalties and would act to ensure a sufficient mix of EVs and ICEs are available on dealership lots. Dealerships will only be able to stock vehicles that meet the obligations of manufacturers, not the wants and needs of our customers. This is costly to small businesses across Maine. Dealerships will be left with unsold inventory which they are paying interest on to a financing source, which is burdensome and incredibly costly.

This rule is not only costly to dealerships but it would severely restrict consumer choice. Maine families are already battling the high cost-of-living in our state, and burdening them with fewer options to purchase the vehicle that best suits their needs is piling on an already difficult situation. I urge you to oppose the proposed Chapter 127-A: advanced clean cars II program rules.

Sincerely,

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