

Townsend, Erle

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Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:41 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: OPPOSE - Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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Lynne Cayting,

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Dear Board of Environment Protection,

I want to have a voice and give some of my thoughts about the potential EV mandates your are contemplating for Maine people. I am part of a longstanding Maine family and a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy. We have been residents and stakeholders for generations. We owned a multi generational business of Pharmaceutical Wholesaling that serviced greater New England and New York dating back to the late 1800's. We held the company until the early 1990's. We as a family are also serial entrepreneurs in many other industries. Hospital Supply, Data Processing, Hospitality, Convenience Stores, Marine Industry, Automobile Industry, Real Estate and even Electric Cars in 2000 when nobody else was doing it. Some years we have had over 500 employees.

None of this matters at all except I have a good reason to say that Maine is not like California, and our climate and the lifestyle of Maine people is not like California also. To mandate what Maine residents have to buy is not the right thing to do right now. Henry Ford did not have mandates when he created his vehicle. That vehicle became necessary because it was affordable and practical and a good all around value story. And it happened, and was widely adopted without any government incentive.

EV mandates are a very forceful gesture to a situation that is not :
Necessary, Practical and/or Affordable,

First.....Necessary.

My family and I, business partners and employees and friends are certainly in favor of clean air and water for all of us, our kids and generations to come. I am a sailor and a skier and the "Great Outdoors" is special place. We all need to see that it is taken care of and enjoyed. I have a personal issue with trash in the oceans and the clean up issues that go with that. I also have a serious problem with the abundance and careless proliferation of packaging and its disposal. I am also bothered by the over preparing, and ultimately wasting, of good food and tossing it away. It is an immense waste of energy and resources.

However, most of the people I come in contact with know and agree that there is no immediate "climate emergency", and that this narrative is a cover for the money and politics behind it all. There is much disagreement with climate scientists as you know. They all go to the same schools and it is a very small group of people to begin with. More real data and consensus is needed. There are many other environmental villains within and beyond automobiles and the transportation sector. The life cycle of an electric car is not that much better for the environment than a conventional ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicle, and most people realize that now. Hybrid technology makes sense in certain situations but it is still not available or affordable to the bulk of the population at the moment. To mandate Electric cars at this juncture, and at these percentages, is not necessary or going to solve some immediate "emergency". Ev's will find their way as technology and

infrastructure support them, without mandates.

Second Practical

If EV's were practical or, deemed practical, in the near future they would be flying off the shelves. They are not. That is a documented fact, even true in California as of recent also. People realize there is no supported infrastructure and you cannot complete or plan trips accordingly. People also realize that to achieve any of the required infrastructure will cost billions of dollars from somewhere? Ultimately it comes from raising distribution rates and the price per KW. Electricity will not be cheaper in the future. The price of electricity will skyrocket.

People want to be able to choose how to live their life and get to work, move their kids around, and go on vacation without disruption and "range anxiety" for example. It's about just simply getting there on time and safe and reliably. We are really not there yet with EV's. There is no real confidence in infrastructure, or even information that infrastructure is coming soon? That should happen first before these vehicles are forced on people.

EV's will be forced on people,..... it's going to happen. EV's will be forced on people by the manufacturers who build them and subsequently by the companies who sell them. They will be forced to get rid of them,and try to stay solvent in the process.

ThirdAffordable

Ev's and plug in Hybrids are expensive vehicles. I think it is irresponsible to mandate expensive vehicles to people that cannot afford them. The \$7,500 credit to me is a slap in the face to people who cannot afford these vehicles because that is their money going toward that credit. In fact nobody needs an incentive of \$7,500 to buy an \$80,000 vehicle because they can afford, and will buy it anyway. People will also be forced to buy vehicle chargers at their house, if they are lucky to have a house. Roughly sixty percent of the population rents their housing. I'm not sure what it is in Maine? Will people have to park down the street ? Or pay something extra just to plug it in? When a reliable EV costs \$20,000 or less, is readily available and costs the same to operate and "fuel up" as a current vehicle, it will become widespread. Until then it will be a discriminatory system of who can drive what.

It's like limiting the access of fossil fuels to developing nations. It is inhumane to hold developing countries back from access to fossil fuels and the cheaper energy that the rest of the world has had access to for so long. They will never get out of poverty and be able to improve their health, lifestyle and economy. Vehicle mandates will limit access to vehicles for the lower income levels.

Vehicle prices for ICE vehicles for example will skyrocket. The supply and demand for those vehicles new, and used, will be out of whack. When that happens consumers pay the price. New Hampshire for example may not have the same mandate. Maine residents will go to New Hampshire and beyond, maybe way beyond, to get the vehicle they want. They will probably pay an inflated price and have transportation fees etc. This will aggravate the lower income families who will also have to pay higher prices.

Used cars will experience the same price effect which will be an unintended consequence of new vehicles supply and demand being disrupted.

I have been in the car business since 1993. It has changed a lot. Cars are better, safer, cleaner for the air, more efficient and last longer than ever. I am a serious proponent of electric vehicles. We have a modern and current facility built around being able to support electric vehicles currently available and coming down the pipeline. I am a real stakeholder and have invested a great amount of time and money for training, equipment and infrastructure, of which we have the best available. I am in the automobile business and I do not want to be in the position of forcing a customer to buy this or that. I will not do it, and never have. We take pride in our business as a service organization first and sales organization second. We support peoples transportation needs with service, parts, new and used cars. We are a sales organization only in the sense that we would like to sell to you any of our products that you would choose to buy.

We have tried to get information to our team members and customers. We sent out 10,000 emails. We feel

obligated to give information about the mandates and the process etc. We had about a 60% open rate which is pretty good. We got resounding number of "Thank You....had no idea about this or what is coming". And "Really ?" , "That's crazy!" We had less than a handful of comments in favor of the mandates.

What the real story is that people are blind sided still. They are uninformed and many reluctant to reach out or even know what to do. It's a mysterious process that the general public is still unaware of. We put out the information because we are in the middle of it and we want customers to know we are on their side, only to offer just what they want and need. If you have not heard from the bulk of the population it is because they are unaware of what is going on. Most people will say, "Oh that will never happen"..... are they right? Another reason to slow down.

The mandates go too far and too fast. The current sales rate is way off the projected mandate percentages, as you know. Every person I talk to feels it is a truly unreachable goal, especially in only three years. This is not far away and so much of the picture is missing if we are to get there. This is a decision I feel to be made by our state legislature and the people of the State of Maine. Please put aside your personal ideology and political bias's and tap the brakes. Please pause this decision somehow for another time and place.

Sincerely,

William Waldron
Portland Volvo Cars

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