

Townsend, Erle

From: Diane Neal <dcneal3231@grsdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 5:26 AM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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Dear Maine DEP Board Member

I am writing today to express my strong support for the adoption of the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCII) rule in Maine and urge the Board to fully adopt the proposal through 2035.

Today, there are too many Maine communities impacted by harmful air pollution. In the American Lung Association's 2023 State of the Air report, six of Maine's counties reported days with unhealthy air. Reduction of harmful pollutants caused by burning fossil fuels is critical to improving local health today and ensuring a stable climate for future generations. Climate change is first and foremost a public health issue, and one that creates disproportionate impacts across our state.

The transportation sector is the leading source of air and climate pollutants that threatens health – something Maine can change. The American Lung Association's "Zeroing in on Healthy Air" report found that a transition to zero-emission vehicles powered by zero-emission electricity would come with major public health benefits for Mainers:

- \$4.5 billion in public health benefits
- 402 avoided deaths
- 5,870 avoided asthma attacks
- 31,000 avoided lost work days

By adopting and fully extending the ACC II rule, Maine will be better positioned to meet the state's climate goals, spur economic innovation in clean technologies and most importantly ensure that the air we all breathe does not cause or worsen lung disease. I strongly urge the Board to adopt the ACC II rule through 2035 to improve and protect the health of all Mainers.

Sincerely,

Diane Neal
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