

Townsend, Erle

From: Mark Abel <markabel1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 10:39 AM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program (Reposting)

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To whom it may concern,

Climate change is a significant threat to our world, and as a result of this, the state of Maine has set ambitious targets for reducing fossil fuel use and reaching net zero carbon emissions. Given that transportation is the single greatest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Maine, we need to urgently decarbonize the transportation sector. Increasing the use and availability of electric vehicles (EVs) is a critical part of this effort. Adopting the Clean Cars II rule will help accelerate the transition to EVs by incentivizing automobile manufacturers to prioritize Maine for sales of limited EV supplies. This will help reduce our emissions and improve air quality for all Mainers, while continuing to allow for those with gas powered vehicles to continue to use them for several years, as sales of these vehicles are gradually phased out. Consumer choice will certainly be protected for years to come as these vehicles are phased out. Given the delay in implementing this rule, with regulations not starting until 2028, more time will be available for the state to meet these goals, and they are certainly achievable.

I urge the board to reject arguments from those who feel we are not ready for this transition. Maine cannot wait while other neighboring jurisdictions move forward with transitioning to EVs and reducing their emissions. With a gradual implementation of this rule, we will have adequate time to implement it. EVs are the future of transportation, along with excellent and reliable public transportation, and we must move forward.

Therefore, I urge the board to move forward with implementing the clean cars II program.

Sincerely,
Mark Abel
Bangor, ME