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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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To force a regulation such as this on an entire population is very short sighted. While there is most certainly a place for “zero emissions”, better known as “electric”, vehicles in this world it can not be blindly forced on an entire population.

For many geographic areas (including this one) the use of battery operated vehicles is not at all practical. It is well documented that cold weather has a very adverse affect on the charging and range of an electric vehicle. In many cases the range is cut in half reducing them to anywhere from 100-150 miles. Think about the impact this would have on our very rural population. In a state where it takes 6 or more hours to drive top to bottom, through some very isolated areas there would be a huge risk when driving during our cold winter months.

Another issue is the concern of the cost of a replacement battery. Many of these cars need batteries replaced after 8 to 10 years at a cost of \$12,00 to \$20,000. By this time the battery will cost more than the car is worth! And how do you sell or trade in a used vehicle that needs a new battery? It has no value!

The next issue with having to replace the battery is that there is no “safe for the environment “ way to do so. You will have landfills full of batteries or junk yards full of complete vehicle that cannot be disposed off.

Another large concern should be the newness (limited used market) and cost of buying an electric vehicle. How many people in Maine can afford to buy anything close to a new or even newer vehicle? For some it’s not a concern, but for a large part of our population an affordable vehicle does not equal the cost of an EV. And what about the families that need two or even three vehicles to get by? Purchasing one, not to mention multiple EV’s is not a reality for many.

We have not even started to address the “environment” topic! How do you think these batteries are made? Obtaining the raw materials to build these batteries wrecks havoc on the environment. Huge lithium mines are needed to build these batteries. Working these mines consumes a very significant amount of water and energy and POLLUTES the water and air with toxic chemical and heavy metals. How can you justify further damaging the environment when the whole “goal” behind EV’s is to save the environment?? In most of the countries where these mines are being worked large groups or people are being displaced and or exposed to toxic chemicals with health risks. Many or these countries do not have the same labor laws we do and often times have forced labor and or child labor!!

How many people in this state already complain about the quality of our electric grid here? Think about the strain that would be placed on that grid if every home was charging 1,2 or even 3 EV’s every day?? Your poster child for this ridiculous idea, California already places charging restrictions on people that own EV’s? How’s that push for EV’s working for them.

Honestly, I could go on and on about this topic discussing why forcing it on people is a bad idea. I just hope the people who are supposed to be representing the “majority” of the people in this state actually start listening to them.

Thank you
Aaron Bickford

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