

Madame Chairwoman, Members of the committee, my name is Audrey Murphy from Auburn Maine. I am writing you today to encourage you to vote NO on this crippling bill. This proposal is nothing more than a socialist idea that will destroy our once beautiful state.

Last I knew, we lived in the United States of America, and it is a free country. We should be able to purchase what we want without the government telling us what to buy. This proposal presented by a small group of people is wrong for the State of Maine and the people of Maine.

If people want to buy an EV vehicle, they will. As of Dec. 2022, there were only 4990 registered EV's in Maine. Ev's are very expensive for the average Mainer. Many people in Maine prefer pickup trucks or similar style vehicles. An F150 Lightning has a base price of about \$50,000 up to about \$100,00! By the time you add all of the add-ons, you can be well over \$100,000.

My husband's family has a camp in Holey Maine, just outside of Jackman, since the 1950's. It is 18 miles in on a logging road. There is no electricity or running water. We love to go hunting and spending time with family. We may be up there for a week. We would have no way to charge a vehicle. We could purchase a solar charger, more money. We hunt to provide food for our table because of the price of groceries going up. We cannot afford all the add-ons that are necessary to own an EV. We are retired and on a fixed income.

Hunting is a very popular sport in Maine and brings millions of dollars in revenue to the State. From the Maine website:

### **How important are hunters for Maine's economy?**

Hunting specifically supports thousands of jobs, both rural and urban, across the state of Maine, and our goal is to provide a unified voice for all of these stakeholders. Hunting Works For Maine will monitor public policy decisions and weigh in on hunting-related issues that impact Maine jobs.

### **\$213 million spent annually.**

- 181,000 people hunt in Maine each year.
- Of those hunters, 40,000 are from out of state.
- Maine hunters spend \$102 million on trip-related expenditures.
- Hunters in Maine spend over \$60 million on hunting equipment. Each hunter spends an average of \$1,100 a year in Maine.
- Hunter spending translates to nearly \$120 million in salaries and wages.
- Hunting in Maine supports nearly 4,000 Maine jobs.
- Hunters generate \$28 million in state and local taxes.

### **\$363 million ripple effect.**

This unpopular and expensive bill would put a nail in the coffin for many people who hunt in Maine. They cannot afford to purchase an expensive truck to spend days in the wilderness.

From Zip recruiter, "As of Aug 23, the average annual salary in Maine is \$57,788. Just in case you need a simple salary calculator, that works out to be approximately \$27.78 an hour. This is equivalent of \$1,111 a week or \$4,815 a month. Most salaries in Maine range between \$38,294 (25th percentile) to \$75,860 (75th percentile) annually." According to statistics, Maine has 11.5% poverty rate.

These green ideas are only going to continue to hurt the people of Maine. We are NOT California! People are leaving California in droves due to the insane taxes and government interference in the lives of Americans.

Safety and supply are another topic of why this bill is wrong for Maine. The batteries have been known to explode and will cost \$1000's to replace.

From Car and Driver:

- **Lithium-ion batteries are expensive to produce, and mining the cobalt and nickel required to make these energy storage devices is rife with both environmental and humanitarian concerns.**
- **Onboard battery management is critical to the longevity of lithium-ion batteries.**
- **Fully charging and fully discharging lithium-ion batteries takes a toll on their service life.**
- **Though the chances are low, lithium-ion batteries have the potential to overheat and catch fire.**
- **Extreme temperatures affect the charging and discharging of lithium-ion batteries.**

There are many environmental problems with the production of batteries. First and foremost, we would be dependent on China for many of the materials. The horrible labor conditions in China are not something that we should be supporting.

Battery fires are another concern. Batteries have been known to explode when connected to the chargers. Trying to extinguish a battery fire can take hours and thousands of gallons of water to put the fire out.

GM had to recall over 142,000 of two Bolt models because of fire. Forbes states, “[Hyundai](#) earlier this year expanded a similar callback covering about 90,000 of its Kona EVs. [Ford](#) recalled more than 20,000 plug-in hybrids in Europe because they also could overheat and catch fire. And Tesla products also have been linked to several fires.”

EV cars may be the way in the future, but they will only cause more people to become poorer or not be able to afford transportation. Except for people living in southern Maine, there is no good infrastructure for public transportation. The electric bills are continually going up. We do not have the grid to support mass EV's in our state. California tells its people to not plug in their EV's due to rolling blackouts.

You would put many local mechanics out of business with this crippling mandate. My son owns a small auto mechanic shop. The increase in specialized equipment needed to repair these cars would be too much for many small businesses. Covid and taxes already have put a burden on small businesses. Please do not force the closure of many small, family owned businesses out of business.

This may be something to look at in ten years when the state is in a better place to support electric cars.

Now is not the time to impose a draconian rule that will hurt the people of Maine. I urge you to vote NO in this unpopular bill.

