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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Electric Vehicle Rules

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I recently read in the *Bangor Daily News* that there are proposals for Maine to phase out sales of gas-powered cars and trucks in favor of electric vehicles. To make matters worse, it is even proposed that Maine adopt rules similar to rules California adopted last year!

California and Maine are vastly different in climate and rural make up. One size does not fit all.

Some things that should be weighed in consideration of any rules to do away with gas-powered vehicles in favor of electric vehicles:

1. Extremely cold winters in Maine. Batteries lose their efficiency in colder weather.
2. Maine is a rural state and commutes are typically long. So long, that it would take a lot of extra time to get to your destination in an electric vehicle because you'd need to stop and recharge (possibly multiple times) in order to get to your destination in time.
3. At one time I worked for a company that required a lot of travel. I would have to travel all over the entire state. Can you imagine what it would be like to leave Bangor at 6 am and travel to Allagash and back in the same day? It would be next to impossible. What about the time to get your work done while you are at your destination?
4. The trucking industry would have a real problem using electric vehicles because of the stops and charging times needed. The added battery weight of the truck would also be very hard on our roads and bridges throughout the state and beyond. Think about all the produce that would be destroyed during these long commutes. What about those loads of live animals like chickens and turkeys? They would most likely be dead on arrival to their destination because of the additional transit time from recharging.
5. Do we really have sufficient electric power for all the charging stations that would be needed? If not, it would be reckless to attempt to get rid of gas powered transportation without a sufficient system that could support more use of electricity.
6. The oil and gas industry has taken a big hit in recent years. If this causes them to shut down gas stations, where are the people who have gas powered vehicles going to fill up? These gas stations are "service" stations and we need all their services to survive.
7. What about the fires that the lithium batteries start in vehicles? If people bought electric vehicles and charged them in their garages, it could burn down their whole house if it is attached to the garage. The fire danger has so far not been fixed.

They say it's not safe to charge your car outside on the street overnight because your car may not be there in the morning. What then?

8. Generally speaking, the people in Maine do not have the kind of incomes that many people in California (and other states) have. Do you really think low income people who have to drive to work can afford an electric vehicle?
9. What about fishing boats? Are we going to build charging stations in our oceans for the fishing fleet? Gas and diesel make much more sense.
10. This would also mean school buses would need to be electric, too. Again, Maine is a rural state and we don't have charging stations all along our roads. Where are these buses going to recharge along the way in picking up all the kids? If the bus has to remain running so the

kids don't freeze while the bus is recharging how long is it going to take to recharge? It may work in Portland but not in rural areas.

11. Personally, my family has had two Hybrid vehicles since 2012. We got a Hybrid for two reasons: (1) better gas mileage, and (2) they are quieter. However, now the vehicle manufacturers are required to put noise makers in the hybrid and electric vehicles. Some of the noise makers sound like a loud metal on metal noise that is extremely unpleasant and hurts our ears. Enough so that we would not buy another hybrid if it had that kind of noise maker on it. Gas powered cars are now quieter than Hybrids and electric cars. One might think our lawmakers don't really want people to buy hybrid and electric vehicles.
12. Another consideration is the cost of infrastructure and the loss of gasoline stations. If the gas stations can't sell enough gas to stay in business, they will close. Then what will the people do who are driving gas powered vehicles, including tractor trailer trucks, snowplows, etc?
13. We should also remember that our paved roads come from the sludge left from the oil that our gasoline comes from. If we no longer have gasoline as an option, the oil refineries will close down. Then there will also no longer be the material required to make the tar that is used for paving our roads.
14. Renewable energy alone will not get us to where we need to be in having reliable energy to run everything. Windmills cost a lot of money and do not produce enough energy to pay back the cost of their construction before they need to be replaced. This is not sustainable. Solar energy does have payback, but what in the world are we going to do about all the toxic waste from these when they no longer produce energy?
15. I certainly do not have all the answers, but I do have a lot of questions.

There is no "one size fits all" answer for our energy needs. We need to use everything we have available; whether it be gasoline, natural gas, propane, oil, coal, hydropower, wood and other biofuel, geothermal, nuclear, solar, and hydrogen. They all have their place and use and we need to consider them all. Cost also needs to be a consideration.

Thank you.