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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Gas vehicle rules

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I'm writing as a Maine resident and working class person from the forgotten northern half of the state... I think it's a terrible mistake to move forward with this; and proves how narrow minded advocates for this are because it will harm rural Mainers and their communities exponentially. Adding costs and affecting our families already tight budgets with over ambitious and illogical rules will only cause more discontent and damage to our way of life up here as is. The state shouldn't be making these broad rules that will hurt our communities and businesses in the name of some kind of climate initiatives that need batteries and materials using equipment that cause more pollution than working Mainers driving to and from work. Gas is important for rural communities because it's a better energy option and EV's wouldn't operate well in rural Maine and cause greater headaches. It's proven that cold climates affect EVs terribly, and up here in the County our winters are known to be 50 below easy! If anything, incentivize purchase of EVs in Central and Southern Maine, but don't force it in Eastern and Northern Maine where we're very rural and our roads are in poor shape. Augusta needs to realize that one size fits all policies don't work in our diverse state. Incentives and initiatives that are more catered to the Greater Portland area should be more focused there, not implemented state wide as it is unenforceable and illogical. This needs to be scrapped entirely and allow the legislature to plan this with some kind of commission made of folks across the state if we're concerned about climate change.

Another issue I thought of is the already outrageous energy costs we have in the state. How are we going to power all these charging stations without breaking the grid or slamming costs on ratepayers more than they are way overpaying as is?