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

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8/23/2023

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Statement on Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Public Hearing on California-Style Rules to Limit Gas-Powered Cars, Trucks & Ban on Internal Combustion Engines.

A coalition of environmental groups is trying to 'FORCE' Maine to adopt California-style electric vehicle regulations that would eventually prohibit the sale of gas-powered vehicles here in Maine. And therein lies the rub.

An agency of gov't. use of 'Force' is an assault on Free Market Principals, that's already under assault with massive subsidies, is discriminatory & un-American.

If Gov. Janet Mills (D) said she would not allow Maine to "blindly" follow California's lead concerning this proposal. Why the push to mandate Force vs. Choice?

The Census Bureau estimates that 11.5% of Mainers live in poverty, it's particularly unconscionable that you would FORCE low-income Mainers to purchase vehicles they simply cannot afford. Poorer families will drive their gas-powered vehicles into the ground in an attempt to avoid the high costs, they're doing that now.

-Maine has the third highest tax burden of all 50 states.

-Only New York and Hawaii will have higher total tax burdens than Maine.

-Maine has the highest property tax rates as a percentage of total income out of all the states.

-The sales tax burden is the 26th highest in the country. The income tax burden is the 14th highest.

It's obvious Maine families cannot afford electric vehicles and the available technology for medium- and heavy-duty electric trucks. The infrastructure doesn't exist, our electric grid cannot handle such a rapid transition to electric vehicles. Ther adoption of these rules would have catastrophic results for Maine people and businesses.

All this happening & we learn "Maine Public Transit's Primary EV Supplier Files for Bankruptcy Amidst Statewide Push Toward Vehicle Electrification."

It's obvious they're not ready, the People of Maine deserve better.

Please Reject this rule change proposal!

Sincerely,