

## Breton, Mary B

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**From:** MIDMAINE <lkeen@midmaine.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 9:10 PM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Proposed Reduction of Gas Vehicles

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I would like to comment on the proposal to reduce gasoline powered vehicles in Maine, and replace them with Electric Vehicles.

There are a multitude of reasons I feel this is wrong, but the first is, why don't we just let the market decide. If people see the combination of vehicle expense, maintenance, and electricity is actually less than it costs for a gasoline powered vehicle, they will make the switch.

I am an electrician, and travel all over this State. The utilities are not able to support the additional loads. The infrastructure for EV's does not exist, and will not, possibly ever, especially in rural areas of Maine. If you can't find a charging station, you are out of luck. EV's can't travel as far as Gas vehicles between refueling stops. One huge issue is the batteries are even less efficient in cold weather. Do we want to endanger people with the possibility of frost-bite or worse because they couldn't charge their vehicle? These are impractical in our State. If you live in a city, they may be fine, but many of us are rural, and don't have the amenities available.

EV's batteries have a life span that is not as great as a gas vehicle that is maintained properly. When the battery life is up, the battery can't be swapped, as it is part of the structure of the vehicle. It is too expensive to try to replace the battery, and the vehicle will need to be disposed of at this point. What will happen to the vehicle? The batteries contain materials that are hazardous to the environment? Is there a plan for how to recycle them? Where will they be stored before recycling?

EV's are heavier than gas powered vehicles. Our roads can't stand the added wear these will create. Is there a plan to make our roads EV ready? What about the damage to the environment that takes place with increased paving and tarring?

We are not a "rich" State. Many, if not most, can't afford an EV. For this reason alone, how can this even be considered? I live in Downeast Maine. It would be absolutely cruel to so many here that rely on reasonably priced transportation just to survive. We already feel that we are forgotten by the State, and this decision certainly wouldn't help in that regard.

Many of the homes will need an upgrade to their electrical panels, just to be able to add an EV charging station. There is a good chance some will need the service, itself replaced. These upgrade costs would be expenses many families could not absorb.

What about the damage to the environment that is inherent with gathering the material to build EV's and their batteries. Is this even considered? Why would we want to force people to purchase vehicles that the main component to allow them to operate comes from Communist China? We need to be independent and not depend on that country to support our fleet on transportation. That just seems wrong.

I could go on and on, but please reconsider this plan. It may be good for the few, but isn't for the many. If the market is there, this change will happen on its own. We don't need to be forced.

Sincerely,  
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