

## Breton, Mary B

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**From:** Scott Vlaun <scott@ecologybasedeconomy.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 3:16 PM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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28 August 2023

To: Board of Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
From: Scott Vlaun, Center for an Ecology-Based Economy  
Re: Advanced Clean Cars II Rulemaking

Esteemed Board Members,

I recently exercised my privilege to sit in on your hearing and testify in favor of adopting an adapted version of California's ACCII rules. I was disappointed and slightly shocked to hear some of the misinformation being repeated by those opposing the rule, namely that electric cars will not work in our winter weather, that they are dangerous, and that rural Mainers don't want them.

I have been driving electric vehicles for eight years here in the western foothills and mountains, logging close to 100,000 miles on three different cars. While the range does drop in cold winter weather, I have found EV's to be superior in almost every way, and effective and reliable in extreme weather conditions and rugged terrain. As a skier, I have put my EVs through the paces to get to the mountains during cold, snowy weather. With their extra weight and low center of gravity they have performed remarkably well. Longer range cars, strategically placed fast charging and abundant Level 2 destination charging in our area has made range anxiety a thing of the past for me. Although more Level 3 fast-charging would be helpful, ski areas and other winter destination spots are responding by installing Level 2 destination charging stations to accommodate the influx of EV drivers from Maine and surrounding states. The bottom line is that EVs work in the winter and are becoming more popular.

The Center for an Ecology-Based Economy, of which I am executive director, will be hosting our 9th annual EV Expo this year. This "ride and drive" event has put hundreds of people behind the wheel of an EV. We find that almost universally, once people drive an EV, they begin to consider purchasing one. A big barrier has been cost, especially now that our local used EV dealer has closed up shop due to labor issues. Our organization has also installed 26 Level 2 plugs in our region. Availability of used affordable vehicles, combined with adequate public charging and local expertise has led to a boom in EV adoption in our area. Our Expo hosts as many as 40 local EV drivers, with many more in the area. We estimate that there are over 100 EVs in Norway and surrounding communities. Of all the contacts we have with EV drivers, I honestly cannot think of one that has sold their EV to go back to driving a polluting ICE car. The biggest thing holding back many in our community from driving electric is not lack of trust in the technology, but price.

With the majority of CO2 pollution in our state coming from cars and trucks, electrifying our transportation system is imperative if Maine is to meet its emissions reduction and clean air goals. By adopting ACCII, Maine will help assure that we get our fair share of affordable electric vehicles for sale in our underserved rural communities where dealers have been slow to catch on, mostly due to lack of knowledge. Zero Emission Electric Vehicles

are the future, with many manufacturers stating that they will only sell EVs after 2035. They will also help with the transition to distributed renewable energy as Vehicle to Grid technology matures. Contrary to what is being said by the opposition, this rule does nothing to force anyone out to their ICE cars and trucks, which with our plethora of local mechanics, will surely be on the road for many years, or as long as fossil fuels are readily available. Rather than limiting opportunities, ACCII will expand choices for Maine's working class to adopt the same cost-saving, reliable EV technology that will be available in the neighboring states that have been forward thinking enough to adopt these common-sense rules.

With half of this non-renewable resource already burned, the fossil fuel age is coming to a close. Passing ACCII rules will help keep Maine at the forefront of the great transition to a renewable energy future in a just and equitable way.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue,

[Scott Vlaun](#)

Executive Director,  
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy

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