

## Breton, Mary B

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**From:** Maya Faulstich <me@waltzingcat.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 4:33 PM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Chapter 127-A, Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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Hello, my name is Maya Faulstich from Yarmouth Maine, and I am submitting testimony with Maine Youth Action. The transportation sector is one of the most important things to address when it comes to climate change, because it accounts for almost half of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. 60% of those emissions are caused by light-duty vehicles. The Advanced Clean Cars II program is the most important thing Maine can do right now to cut transportation pollution through electrification. It would require automakers to gradually increase their sales of electric vehicles, and would save our households, businesses, and economy from dirty and expensive fossil fuels.

Investing in clean transportation saves money and creates jobs - good jobs. For example, in California, the EV industry pays almost \$23,000 more than the average annual wage across all industries. Also, paying less money for gas will allow families to invest more in Maine's local economy. My aunt just bought an electric car, and she will not stop talking about how much money she has saved on gas. She can afford the upfront price because my family is more affluent, but low-income families deserve to have the same benefits. Families on a budget spend as much as 20% of their income on fuel, and that percentage spikes when gas prices spike. With ACC II, everyone in Maine could have the same opportunity to save money. Even if a family doesn't own an EV, getting more EVs on the grid pushes electric rates down, saving money all around.

Still, ACC II must go further and adopt the full plan to 100% zero emission vehicle requirement in 2035. This will give Maine a clear path forward, as well as save Mainers billions in economic health and climate benefits. Nearly one in five deaths worldwide can be attributed to the burning of fossil fuels. The more complete our plan is, the more lives we can save.

The full ACC II plan is very feasible and effective. In other states that follow California emission regulations, the market share for electric vehicles is twice as high as other states. Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and others are all advancing full adoption of EVs through 2035, whereas the current proposed plan in Maine stops short in 2032, with an 82% zero emission vehicle requirement. If all the surrounding states in this region can plan for 100% by 2035, why can't we? Plus, we have a climate benchmark to look out for: Maine's target is 80% greenhouse gas reduction by 2050. Adopting the full version of ACC II would allow us to reach that target much more easily.

Maine is ready for this transition. Mainers are eager to improve our health and economy. By adopting the FULL ACC II, through 2035, Maine will be on a clear path to 100% vehicle emissions reductions, and able to more easily plan and invest in our grid and charging infrastructure. Businesses, individuals, AND municipalities want certainty surrounding our future. Right now, we have the power to make that happen. We must act now with the Advanced Clean Cars II program, and help transition our society to a cleaner future.

Sincerely,  
Maya Faulstich  
(she/they)  
<https://bit.ly/the-plastic-problem>