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**Testimony of Senator Ben Chipman in favor of the Advanced Clean Cars II Program (ACC II)
Before the Board of Environmental Protection on
August 17, 2023**

Distinguished Members of the Board Environmental Protection, my name is Senator Ben Chipman. I represent Senate District 28, which includes a part of Portland. I am here to testify in favor of the adoption of the Advanced Clean Cars II Program (ACC II).

We are facing a global climate crisis, which requires every one of us to do our part to reduce our negative impact on the environment. The Advanced Clean Cars II program (ACC II) is one of the best ways for Maine to slash pollution from the transportation sector, by incentivizing electrification.

As of February 2022, the [U.S Department of Transportation](#) reported that about 49 percent of men and 51 percent of women are licensed drivers in Maine. About 77.8 percent of the total population of our state—just over one million people—are drivers. [54 percent](#) of all greenhouse gas emissions in Maine come from transportation. In simple terms, we are a driving state. That’s why we need to implement the ACC II program, which would rapidly cut light-duty vehicle emissions by requiring an increasing number of vehicles each year sold to be zero-emission, starting with model year 2027.

Maine’s current ACC II proposal stops short of its full greenhouse gas reduction potential by ending in 2032 at 82% zero emission vehicle requirement. We need to ramp up to 100% new zero emission and plug-in hybrid vehicles by 2035. In order to reach Maine’s 2050 climate benchmark of 80% reduction in greenhouse gases, we need to implement this rule.

Moreover, Maine is the only state in New England that has not yet adopted or have moved forward to adopt the ACC II through to 2035. Maine should adopt ACC II to 100% in 2035, now, in order to support our statewide climate goals and build a more sustainable future for Mainers. We have an opportunity to make deep cuts in our output of harmful emissions, and we need to take it.

We keep setting new temperature records each year as the Earth continues to warm. If we want to ensure a sustainable and liveable future for the next generations, we have to act now.

Thank you for your time.