

Breton, Mary B

From: Cole LaPointe <cole.lapointe.47f17@advocacy.online>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 7:40 AM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Please Oppose Proposed Rule 128 - Electric Vehicle Sales Mandates on Trucks

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Lynne Cayting,

I am writing to you today to urge you to oppose the proposed rule to mandate the sale of medium and heavy-duty electric trucks in Maine. I support voluntary choice by our customers of vehicles that meet their needs. This plan is costly, unrealistic, and requires dealers to abandon our longstanding principle of finding vehicles that best suit the needs of our customers.

This plan is burdensome and costly to dealers. The California rules define “sale” in such a way as to mean the transaction between the manufacturer and the dealership, not the purchase by an ultimate user. Any penalties assessed would fall on the manufacturers. In an effort to avoid penalties, manufacturers will act to ensure a sufficient mix of EVs and ICEs are on dealership lots. This means dealerships will have vehicles in stock to meet manufacturer obligations, not necessarily the vehicles customers want or need. Dealerships will be left with unsold inventory for which they are paying interest to a financing source, which is not only burdensome but incredibly costly.

Proposed Rule 128 limits customer choice, requires purchase of vehicles which can cost 2-3 times the price of current comparable vehicles, have significantly lower range of operation between refueling & recharging, need charging station infrastructure different from light-duty vehicles (this infrastructure is currently not available in Maine), and does not address the woefully inadequate electric grid.

Dealerships work to help customers purchase the vehicle that best suits their needs, and we oppose efforts that reduce that choice and burden hardworking Mainers.

Again, please oppose the proposed Rule 128 electric vehicle sales mandates on medium and heavy-duty trucks.

It is my belief that a forced mandate for the sale of electric medium and heavy duty vehicles would cause further strain to a already fractured and weak supply chain post covid-19. In addition to that, our countries electrical grid can not handle that amount of strain as of right now.

Sincerely,

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