

From: [Larry & Cathy Witham](#)
To: [DEP Rule Comments](#)
Subject: Comment on Chapter 128: Advanced Clean Trucks Program
Date: Friday, August 25, 2023 12:03:09 PM
Importance: Low

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First of all, why should a petition that only requires 150 people to sign it be used to implement policies for 1.372 million people without the people voting on it, or at the very least, having the legislature involved. Apparently, about 300 people signed the petition. That's 200 percent of the required number of Maine citizens who signed the petition! That sounds great until you realize that's only 0.00021865889% of the population. Numbers can be spun to show anything you want. This is NOT California! They don't run this country or this state. I suspect that the majority of the people don't want Maine to be like California. That's why we don't live there! Why are we trying to emulate a state that has such terrible policies that don't seem to be going so well for them? People can't afford to live there anymore (even with the higher average incomes) and are leaving in droves to live in less regulated, less crime-infested, and less expensive environments. By forcing Maine people to conform to the whims of climate zealots, you are literally taking food out of their mouths and making them insecure in their housing situations. These are two of the most basic living requirements – food and shelter. Many of those people are senior citizens on fixed incomes. As noted above, income is higher in California. "According to the latest ACS 5-year survey in 2021, the median household income in Maine is \$63,182.00. **The average (or mean) household income in Maine is \$83,914.00.** California Median Household Income: \$84,097. Average Household Income: \$119,149."

Since this state seems to be following the California emission standards, it appears to be only a matter of time before gasoline powered vehicles are banned here as well. It's being implemented one step at a time, but it is being pushed down our throats whether it makes sense or not.

"Which states follow California emission standards?"

The states that have adopted the California standards are: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico (2011 model year and later), New York, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, and Washington (2009 model year and later), as well as the District of ..."

"What states are following California on electric cars?"

Seventeen states follow California's rules, but so far only **Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Washington** have announced they'll enforce the Advanced Clean Cars II rule and prohibit the sale of new gasoline-powered vehicles. May 4, 2023

For over 100 years, gasoline-powered vehicles have been on the streets of California, but it will not remain this way for much longer. On August 25, the California Air Resources Board voted to ban the sale of gasoline-powered cars by 2035. Oct 17, 2022"

[California residents will be forced to drive electric - The Mesa Press](#)

Here are several reasons (in no particular order) that I oppose this mandate:

1. Maine does not have the infrastructure for electric vehicles. What is the range of

these vehicles that would deliver from one end of the state to the other. How will they charge up in the middle of their drive? How long will that take? How logical is that? How much will that add to the cost of goods?

2. COLD WEATHER!!

a. "Are electric vehicles good in cold weather?"

It's well established that cold weather takes a toll on the range of electric vehicles. That's because the cars must manage both battery and cabin temperatures, causing a significant drain. Jul 28, 2023"

[How Temperature Affects Electric Vehicle Range - Consumer Rep](#)

b. "On average, HERE estimates that vehicle range drops 20% when temperatures start hitting the 32 degrees Fahrenheit mark. If it drops another 10 degrees Fahrenheit that number slumps to 40%. Increased energy consumption is also a major issue when driving an electric car in colder temperatures. Jul 26, 2023"

[How does cold weather affect electric vehicles? | HERE](#)

c. The link below includes tips to improve your EV winter charging to mitigate the negative effects of cold on your battery. All very convenient, especially for the many people who don't plan ahead (sarcasm intentional).

<https://media.electrifyamerica.com/en-us/fivetips-charging-electric-vehicles-cold-weather#:~:text=The%20vehicle%20controls%20the%20charging,help%20avoid%20stressing%20the%20battery.>

3. The cost of electricity has doubled in my personal experience in the last five years or less. How will that be less expensive than gas in the long run? If a more balanced federal energy policy was followed, this country wouldn't be in the dire straits that it is right now. My hope is that the next administration can right this ship before it runs aground on the shoals of greed.

4. Maine is already in the top 10 states with the highest tax burden. As I'm sure you know, Maine also has the highest percentage of senior citizens in the entire country. Most of those senior citizens are on fixed incomes. You're just adding to that burden by causing electricity to be more in demand for charging vehicles (supply and demand), increasing the cost of goods due to increased delivery costs due to proposed EV truck requirements, and increasing the cost of a new vehicle.

5. The cost of goods and services has increased so much that the average person is struggling to make ends meet. Low-income Individuals on Social Security have had most of their monthly income wiped out by Bidenomics inflation! This proposed rule will cause shipping of goods to be even more expensive.

"Inflation forces US families to spend \$709 more a month than two years ago. New York - US inflation has had a snowballing effect on family budgets. The typical American household spent \$709 more in July than they did two years ago to buy the same goods and services, according to Moody's Analytics."

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com> › CBS Miami › Local News

6. How will there be enough electricity to keep up with the demand? The whole state is being taken over by ugly solar fields full of toxic waste. (As a side note, it has been indicated that these solar fields have the capability of changing the climate in their location. (Worth some research perhaps before the state is covered in them?) As more solar and wind farms are developed, more transmitting capacity is needed causing the need for new electric corridors. The current proposed corridor (Aroostook Renewable Gateway) goes from Aroostook County to Coopers Mills. Of course they won't be following much of the existing corridors. They're cutting right through the heart of central Maine. That's great for the environment.....and the people that it affects are thrilled too. (Sarcasm intended)
7. Climate change science is not settled. It's a great buzz phrase that when boiled down to the bottom line is all about how much money can be made by those who are already very well off. Take a look at the following report from Professors at MIT and Princeton. They provided comments to the SEC about investments and climate change. <https://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Happer-Lindzen-SEC-6-17-22.pdf>
Here's another article from well-respected scientists that addresses this issue: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/manufactured-climate-consensus-deemed-false-by-climate-scientist-the-time-for-debate-has-ended/ar-AA1fGsKR?fbclid=IwAR3WllyLyFuA4zpa9Cti2xaPHkMxm-fVxs8BoAJqgGZhH9I9SIJcfR5qlbw>
8. China is building the equivalent of a coal plant every week. You can throw all the money you want at it by requiring people to buy EVs and it won't make much (or any) difference in the long run. China and India have got to do their part if there's any measurable difference to be made. Driving more Mainers into poverty changes nothing.
9. What about the ramifications to the countries and their citizens where the battery materials are mined? Apparently that's okay as long as it's done somewhere besides the U.S.?
10. What about the spent batteries? Where are those all going to go? We're so worried about the environment on the one side, but totally oblivious on the other side.
11. One of the articles seems to indicate that the manufacturers may not pass on the cost to consumers. That's pretty ridiculous to think that the manufacturers are going to absorb that cost! They're profit driven and looking out for their bottom line.
12. The timeframe that you're trying to accomplish a total switch to EVs is ridiculously short. Without the infrastructure in place (for charging stations and producing more electricity), things will be in chaos. If people want to buy an EV, let them. The people who signed the petition obviously want EVs. Good for them, but don't force it down peoples throats. That tends to get people upset!

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