

Breton, Mary B

From: Joseph Martin <jemhunter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 19, 2023 11:49 AM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Cc: Mike Soboleski; TAMMY SCHMERSAL-BURGESS; Rachel Henderson; caleb.ness@legislature.gov; Sawin Millett; John Andrews; CALDIE & DIANE; Donna Dodge; Tim Turner; Russell Black; Franklin County GOP Chair
Subject: California Electric Car Mandate and the end of Gas powered everything

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Subject: Urgent Protest Against "California" Electric Car Mandate and Its Impact on Maine's Tourism and Democratic Process

To: Maine Department of Environmental Protection,

I write this letter to express my vehement opposition to the potential adoption of the "California" electric car mandate in Maine. The implications of such a proposal, which would eliminate gas-powered vehicles, are far-reaching, especially for District 2's critical tourism industry. I urge you to carefully consider the detrimental effects on our state's economy and the erosion of our democratic process.

As a resident of District 2, I am intertwined with the tourism sector that underpins our local and state economies. Our second district serves as a hub for year-round tourism, attracting visitors for snowmobiling, 4-wheeler excursions, boating, fishing, hunting, and various outdoor activities. This dynamic economy injects millions of dollars into our communities, counties, and the entire state.

The proposed "California" electric car mandate threatens to dismantle this intricate balance. The prohibition of gas-driven vehicles could undermine Maine's unique four-season appeal, severely affecting snowmobiling, 4-wheeler adventures, boating, and related industries. The repercussions could extend far beyond, affecting lodging, dining establishments, local businesses, and the countless jobs that depend on tourism-driven activities.

While environmental considerations are important, we must adopt a balanced approach that safeguards our economic prosperity while addressing ecological concerns. Maine's tourism industry is at the heart of our identity, and any policy that undermines its sustainability could have dire repercussions.

Furthermore, the current disparity in our democratic process is alarming. Allowing a mere 150 signatures to wield political influence, while requiring an overwhelming 68,000 signatures ++ to address significant issues on the ballot, undermines fairness and

accountability. Decisions of this magnitude must undergo rigorous legislative scrutiny, involving our elected representatives who comprehend the diverse needs of our state's citizens.

In summary, I adamantly protest the potential adoption of the "California" electric car mandate in Maine. I urge you to recognize not only the impacts on District 2's tourism but also the erosion of our democratic values. By preserving our state's unique attractions and embracing inclusive decision-making, we can ensure a flourishing and sustainable future for Maine.

I appreciate your attention to these pressing concerns. It is my sincere hope that our collective voice will be heard and that these vital considerations will be taken into account as we navigate these pivotal decisions for the future of our beloved state.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Martin

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