

## Breton, Mary B

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**From:** Ryan Melanson <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 2:45 PM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Please Vote Against California's Advanced Clean Trucks Rule

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Dear Air Quality Bureau Cayting,

Mainers: Consider the Implications of Governor Mill's Electric Vehicle Mandate

Governor Mill's proposal to mandate the purchase of electric vehicles (EVs) and prohibit the sale of gasoline and diesel vehicles is ambitious. On the surface, the motivation behind this move – to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions – is commendable. However, a deeper dive into the implications of such a mandate highlights several concerns that may adversely affect Mainers. Here are some reasons why Mainers should think twice about supporting this proposal:

**Economic Concerns:** A blanket mandate that forces Mainers to transition to EVs can lead to significant economic challenges. Currently, electric vehicles tend to be more expensive upfront than their gasoline counterparts. Not all Mainers can afford to make such an investment, especially those in rural areas or in economically disadvantaged situations. Such a mandate could inadvertently create a class divide between those who can afford the EV transition and those who cannot.

**Infrastructure Limitations:** While urban areas in Maine may see an increase in EV charging infrastructure, rural areas may lag. Charging stations are not as ubiquitous as gas stations. This could mean that Mainers living in rural areas or those who travel long distances within the state might face significant inconveniences or even find themselves stranded without charging options.

**Economic Impact on Local Businesses:** Many small businesses in Maine depend on larger vehicles for transportation of goods, farming, or construction. These vehicles currently do not have electric counterparts that are as efficient or powerful. Forcing a switch could impact their operational efficiency and increase costs, which might be passed on to consumers or result in job losses.

**Reliability during Winters:** Maine is known for its harsh winters. The cold can significantly impact EV battery performance, reducing range and efficiency. Mainers who rely on their vehicles for daily activities could find themselves with decreased reliability during the colder months.

**Unintended Environmental Impact:** While EVs reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the tailpipe, there are other environmental concerns to consider. The production of electric batteries requires the mining of lithium, cobalt, and other rare minerals, which has its environmental and human rights concerns. If the entire state of Maine were to shift to EVs, the demand and pressure on these resources would increase manifold.

Limited Consumer Choice: A mandate of this nature would essentially eliminate consumer choice. For some Mainers, a gasoline or diesel vehicle may better fit their needs due to range, performance, or specific use-cases (like hauling heavy loads). By prohibiting the sale of these vehicles, the state would be denying its residents the freedom to choose what best fits their lifestyle and needs.

Implementation Challenges: Mandating a switch to electric vehicles in a relatively short time frame poses logistical challenges. Car dealerships would need to overhaul their inventory, mechanics would need to retrain, and the entire state's automotive ecosystem would need a revamp. This transition might not be as smooth as envisioned, leading to further inconveniences for Mainers.

Potential Strain on the Electric Grid: An abrupt and wholesale switch to electric vehicles could place unforeseen strains on Maine's electric grid. This could lead to increased power outages, higher electricity prices, or necessitate costly upgrades to the state's electrical infrastructure.

In conclusion, while the environmental benefits of EVs are well-documented, the path to a greener future needs to be thoughtful and inclusive. A mandate that forces a one-size-fits-all solution might not be the best approach for the diverse needs and challenges faced by Mainers. Instead of a prohibition on gasoline and diesel vehicles, a more measured approach, perhaps through incentives for EV adoption, improvements in charging infrastructure, and support for hybrid vehicles, could strike a better balance. This would ensure that Mainers are not unduly burdened while the state makes strides towards a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

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