



Brad Farrin
Senator, District 3

131st MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

August 2023

Maine Bureau of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine, 04333

Chair Lessard and respective members of the Maine Bureau of Environmental Protection,

My name is Brad Farrin. I reside in the Town of Norridgewock and proudly serve the people of Senate District 3 in the Maine State Legislature, representing the communities of Benton, Canaan, Clinton, Detroit, Dixmont, Etna, Madison, Newport, Norridgewock, Palmyra, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Skowhegan, Stetson, and Unity Township,

I am here today to provide comments on the rulemaking for Chapter 128, Advanced Clean Trucks Program. I will be brief in my remarks as my concerns reflect those presented in detail to you by the “Mainers for Smart Energy” coalition. I have followed the work of the coalition and believe the group’s perspective on this matter closely aligns with my own.

In addition to my role in the Legislature, I work for a heavy equipment dealership, which services customers across the state and across industries. I am troubled by this initiative due to my experience with our customers, coupled with my knowledge of industry and the numerous conversations I have had with constituents. I understand and respect the proponents’ interest in reducing greenhouse gases and air pollutants from vehicles. However, putting such a burden on industries that are already heavily regulated and historically and routinely have added so much value to Maine’s economic landscape in such a rushed manner, seems impractical and not well planned.

I have a number of questions and concerns:

- The cost of advancing these mandates, both on government and impacted industries;

- The unanswered questions about grid capacity and the State's ability to guarantee enough reliable electricity to comply with the mandates associated with the standards proposed in this rule;
- The safety concerns with regards to battery malfunctions and related issues; and
- The availability of product and access to equipment servicing and repairs.

These concerns should be enough evidence to warrant a much more in-depth study. My concern if we don't slow this process down, we may very well unnecessarily create a host of unintended consequences.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspectives on this matter. I will submit these comments in written form to the bureau contact as well for the record.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Farrin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and "F".

Brad Farrin
State Senator