

## Breton, Mary B

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**From:** shutterbug photography <imashutterbug.maine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 9:24 AM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Gas vehicle ban proposal

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To whom it may concern

I wish to make known my opposition to the proposal to effectively ban gas powered vehicles in Maine in favor of E.V. vehicles. This proposal has the potential to devastate Mainers in so many ways, so much so that I feel compelled to speak for myself and so many others of the working poor who have always been proud to call Maine home.

\* The cost of these EV vehicles remains consistently higher than gas powered vehicles. Supply and demand will force the price of these already prohibitively expensive vehicles to jump much higher.

\* The majority of Mainers who can afford to pay someone else to fix their vehicle use small, local, privately owned garages- manned by hard working locals who are by all accounts, experts at what they do. However they DO NOT have 20/30/40 years under the hood of an EV- Forcing the vehicle owner to have any bit of work that is required be done at a much higher rate at the very limited EV trained garages, who's prices are governed by large non Maine corporations.

\* All of that applies to the citizens who can even afford to take their vehicles to a garage for maintenance and repairs. A HUGE portion of the working/driving poor in Maine are exactly what the term "Shade Tree Mechanic" embodies, these are the people who work a 10 hour day, often at HARD physical jobs and then come home and fix their vehicle in their own yard laying in gravel or snow because they can't afford to take it to a garage unless they opt to not buy oil or groceries for a month (or more)

\* Charging station access has somewhat improved in Maine however studies suggest the majority of owners charge on their home power - Mainers have fallen VICTIM to CMP and the PUC over the last 24 months with unchecked rate hike after rate hike after rate hike. Bills in Maine have SKYROCKETED averaging a 200% increase. At no time in Maines electric history have rates been so artificially inflated. That one bill is single handedly devastating the Citizens who unfortunately have no true recourse. What will happen to these outrageous power rates when everyone is forced to run and charge electric vehicles ? Supply and demand again comes up as rates will lead to mass bankruptcy. Those with children will be forced on state programs to pay the cost as there are children in the home- those subsidies passed down, rights onto the aching backs of those working too hard already.

\* Mainers are somewhat an isolated group due to our states rural nature. Families can be a great distance apart even within our state. Hour plus commutes to see and check in with our elders or our children. Long commutes to work or Dr.s appts in cities. Our need to work, maintain our family and our health , not to mention travel just for enjoyment to maintain our mental health mean miles on a vehicle. With month after month of Temps well below freezing EV vehicles will prove to be exorbitantly cost prohibitive as batteries will fail at a much higher rate up here in the north than our countries more tropical states. Batteries for

these vehicles range between 5K and 15k. (And those prices are current- not accounting for forced EV mandates causing drastic price increases due to supply and demand and potential shortages) Faced with buying a 10K battery will set a lot of people on the fast track to unemployment as they will not be able to afford a fix of that magnitude when previously they could have junked the vehicle and bought a \$2000.00 "beater" to get to and from work so they and their family can at least survive. There will not be any \$2K electric "beaters" in a very short time if this is forced on us. A young person, fresh out of school could in no way afford the going rate of \$1100./mo rent along with paying for and charging a new EV vehicle.

\*\*\*In case it needs an explanation: a "beater" is a car that has been driven to the ground but runs for \$2,000.-\$4,000.00. It has probably 190,000 miles on it and is all but junk but if we are lucky it won't have been completely EATEN by the calcium and salt POURED on our roads (instead of the much more environmentally friendly SAND we would all prefer) These cars are not for the wealthy but they are for us working people who scrape by. Who some weeks eat 2/\$1.00 generic Mac n Cheese 2 nights a week but don't live off any handouts, we go to work, we pay for heat and CRAZY HIGH electricity and taxes and have NOTHING leftover - no vacation money, no Starbucks, no salon hair appts and definitely nothing to spare on a car payment especially an inflated brand new EV kind of car payment.

\* Protecting the environment is a noble cause and Mainers, surrounded by the beauty we are so lucky to enjoy every day tend to feel a unique level of protection and appreciation for our natural world however we should have free choice in balancing both the good we do for nature and our need to simply survive. We cannot afford to be forced to purchase these vehicles - if one of the stated selling points of this proposal is ensuring those who are wealthy enough to buy these cars have a decent selection to choose from- offer dealers and manufacturers a tax incentive to pad 1/4 of their lot with electric.