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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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To the department
Final draft of my comment on proposed gas vehicle ban

My name is Dawn McDonald
Mt Vernon

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. Currently only 9 Thousand of Maines 1.1 million registered vehicle owners have opted for EV. With a 20 minute check last night I found over 100 EV vehicles in Kennebec County alone. I think the false narrative of increasing availability to meet demand seems suspicious

* 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)

* The "for" camp has stated that this will not effect used car sales. In 2032 it absolutely will when the number of used cars drops drastically.

* 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 the Maine Power Suppliers and providers 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. These current electricity bills are almost 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 continued rate increases could potentially lead to mass bankruptcy of they continue at rate they have been increasing (or more likely much higher increases is this passes as demand would skyrocket)

* 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. These are the cars WE DEPEND ON FINDING. We need THESE cars- to get to our jobs day in and day out, stocking grocery stores, providing care for children, providing care for the elderly, servers, cooks, warehouse workers, loggers. So so many of us who are the forgotten essential workers of this beautiful state of ours.

* 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.

*Please, please consider those of us who work hard and support our families on \$50-60K a year, proud to say with no handouts - we cannot afford this to pass. So many who spoke at the hearing I attended in Augusta portrayed themselves as "average Mainers" - I promise you, "average Mainers" do not make legislator kind of money, no matter how they try to spin it, they have no idea how the rest of us live.

*There is an abundance of EV options for all who want them currently readily available. This is an unwarranted overstep being attempted by the wealthy and elite under the guise that there is limited supply compared to demand. That is not the case- easily seen driving by any dealership in Augusta or Portland areas.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this matter
Dawn McDonald
Mt. Vernon Maine