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From: Michelle Allain-Newton <michnh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 3:55 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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My husband and myself have worked in the Autobody industry. I need to give my opinion on this proposal. Maine is NOT California. Maine is full of hard working, middle class, individuals many of which are in the rural and farming communities. Currently the technological advances in EV vehicles does not merit the proposals. Farmers need vehicles that are far superior to the EV vehicles on the market today. We live in a state where there is a significant amount of snow – there are few SUV four wheel drive vehicle and the Trucks that are EV are not of the quality needed in our state.

I encourage you to look at the repair of these types of vehicles. There is NO Tesla certified Autobody center in the entire state. You actually would need to go to Massachusetts to get your vehicle fixed in the event of a collision. Collision repair centers have to invest in incredible training for their technicians to be able to work on electric vehicles – many are simply going to choose NOT to work on them. The vehicles need very specific OEM procedures, most shops in Maine are not certified in ANY brand any may not have access to the OEM repair procedures. This proposal would have significant impact on the Autobody industry.

How hard is it to repair and EV? Here is a clip from a recent article - "Any removed battery requires special storage. The optimal scenario would be a storage/building outside your facility that's temperature-controlled and has a ventilation system. Current National Highway Transportation Safety Administration guidelines suggest 50 feet of separation between a stored battery and a building or another vehicle."

https://www.bodyshopbusiness.com/ev-batteries-handling-disposal-and-storage/?fbclid=IwAR1cU-pYqdCE7sPWaFk73tmuo2nRA_0_I248yyyB05BlkKJKidBYm4Y7f4E

I am here to warn you – body shops – and many mechanical shops are simply going to refuse to repair these vehicles. I encourage you to reach out and speak directly to Collision shop owners on their opinions.

Have you seen the recent articles where EVs have caught on fire and the local fire departments were unable to put the fire out for HOURS?

Another consideration – can the Maine electric grid handle the increase of demand? We are already paying astronomical rates here in Maine, can we afford more?

Thank you for your consideration.

Michelle Allain-Newton

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