



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Lynne Cayting, Chief
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Mobile Sources Section, Bureau of Air Quality
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330

Chief Cayting,

My name is Jack Ducharme and I have the honor of representing the people of Maine House District 71, Madison, Norridgewock and Cornville in the Maine State Legislature. I currently serve on the Joint Select Committee for Appropriations and Financial Affairs in the 131st Legislature.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rules, Rule 127-A and Rule 128 being considered by your rules committee. I cannot express in real terms how devastating the imposition of these seemingly arbitrary rules will be on the area that I represent. I see that they are sponsored by some environmental groups such as Sierra Club, Natural Resources Council of Maine and the Conservation Law Foundation. They are using the “rules” to try and establish California ZEV standards in the State of Maine.

I’ll be one of the first to say that we must be good stewards of our environment. I love our State and want to protect it. However, in order to be good stewards of that environment, we must be able to economically survive. I’ve talked with many of my nearly 8,400 constituents who would love to have efficient vehicles to drive in an effort to be more environmentally friendly but they just cannot afford them. Mandating them either in the case of trucks or passenger vehicles will not change that dynamic.

I heard Mr. Shapiro state on the radio that these rules would not “mandate” ZEV’s but merely require dealers to have these as a dictated percentage of their inventory. He went on to state that this would likely not hurt many Mainers as most Mainers buy used vehicles which will not be affected by these rules. I found that statement is both insulting and condescending to hard working Mainers.

District 71
Cornville, Madison, and Norridgewock

ZEVs are not the perfect vehicle for our climate. As I have been told, the range of these vehicles is significantly impacted by cold temperatures. We have plenty of cold temperatures in the district that I serve, sometimes for long periods of time. Further, I have yet to find a ZEV truck that can haul 80,000 lbs. of wood from the forest to the mills. If one is traveling 5-10 miles to work or the store, range is less important than when one must travel 50-60 miles to the nearest store. That is a reality in Northern Somerset County and range will be an issue.

Making these “routine technical” rule changes on the basis of 150 people’s signature on a petition is a serious problem for me as a State Representative. We have 1.4 million people in Maine who have chosen to live here. They deserve a say in whether they will be able to purchase a new fossil fuel powered vehicle after 2027 either by a direct referendum or by our representative system. Please consider the wishes of the people of Maine before you institute these rules. I believe that you will find that most Mainers oppose them and the infringement on personal freedom to choose what they want to drive. Please do not institute these rules. It will only hurt the cause of keeping our air quality clean and further damage the relationship between Maine government and the people of Maine that government serves.

Cordially,

Jack Ducharme

Rep. Jack Ducharme
Madison, Norridgewock, Cornville