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August 22, 2023

AGENCY: **06-096 - Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**
CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: **Ch. 127-A (New), Advanced Clean Cars II Program**
TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical
PROPOSED RULE NUMBER: **2023-P145**

As a life-long citizen of Maine and the State Representative of House District 70 (Skowhegan), I present this testimony about a very important issue that affects our state and our future; the proposed adoption of California's Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks programs. If implemented, these regulations would require 43% of new automobile sales in Maine to be zero-emission vehicles starting with model year 2027, increasing to 82% in 2032. The proponents of these measures claim that this *will* reduce air pollution, combat climate change, and save consumers money. I am reluctant to agree with these opinions and am here to tell you why we should reject this petition.

A staggering 49% of carbon dioxide emissions were from transportation in 2019 and that number has not changed significantly since. According to the DEP's own fact sheet, we will be unable to meet the goals set in Maine's 2020 Climate Action Plan if the ACCII regulation is not adopted. I suggest that even if this rule was implemented we will still fall short of our goals. Approximately 200,000 ZEV's will be on the road by 2032 if this rule passes. This would come at a time when we are supposed to have over 80% of our retail electric consumption supplied by renewable sources. The majority of these 200,000 vehicles will be plugging into the grid at night when wind and solar have almost no capacity. Electric providers will then be forced to purchase electricity supplied by natural gas and oil which will negate nearly all of the carbon dioxide emission reductions these vehicles provide over their combustible engine counterparts that actually fit people's needs.

By forcing automotive dealers to maintain an annually increased supply of zero emission vehicles on their lots, it will inevitably drive prices higher for the internal combustions counterparts that have a mandated lower supply. Government oftentimes thinks it can incentivize people to behave how they see fit, but in this one case, I don't think we will receive the desired results. Many Mainers will opt to purchase out of state where they can find a reasonably priced car or truck. This will drive down the revenue of our state as well as auto dealers and will harm their industry

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which employs thousands of Mainers in dealerships, repair shops, and parts suppliers. The adverse effects of this petition on Maine's people, economy, and car market are glaring.

Besides these common sense problems that proponents of this petition ignore, these standards will undermine our sovereignty and our democracy. By adopting California's rules, we are giving up our right to make our own decisions about what is best for our state. We are letting a distant and unaccountable bureaucracy dictate our policies, without any input or representation from us. We are also ignoring the will of the people, who have repeatedly rejected similar proposals in the past. In 2008, Maine voters rejected a ballot initiative that would have required 10% of new car sales to be ZEVs by 2014. In 2019, Governor Janet Mills vetoed a bill that would have authorized Maine to join the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional cap-and-trade scheme that would have raised gas prices by up to 17 cents per gallon. These standards are just another attempt to impose an unpopular and unnecessary agenda on us.

We do not need California's standards to protect our environment and our health. We already have some of the cleanest air in the nation, thanks to our existing regulations and our abundant natural resources. We also have some of the most innovative and entrepreneurial people in the nation, who are developing new technologies and solutions to address our energy and transportation challenges. We do not need to follow California's lead; we need to follow our own.

I urge you to join me in opposing these standards and defending our freedom, our economy, and our environment. Thank you for your attention and your support.