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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Opposition to ACC Program and Rule Change

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak against the proposed ACC Program, and the rule change that would force Maine car sales to be 43% electric as of 2027, ratcheting that number up to 83% by 2032. This draconian government mandate would completely torpedo Maine's economy, a rural state that boasts the longest (in distance) commute of all 50 states, and the fourth highest price in electricity (<https://www.chooseenergy.com/electricity-rates-by-state/>). There are many reasons why this proposal is completely ludicrous, and would cause the economy of the state to grind to a halt, but I will focus on three: an electrical grid that can't handle the additional draw, the complete lack of infrastructure, and the price of electrical vehicles.

1. Electrical Grid: The mandate that Mainers purchase these electric vehicles would add more demand to Maine's sputtering electrical grid, causing electric prices to skyrocket. Currently, Maine can boast the fourth most expensive electricity in the nation, even having the price jump 13% between 2022 and 2023 (<https://www.chooseenergy.com/electricity-rates-by-state/>). That is with only about 9,500 Mainers having registered electrical vehicles (<https://www.bangordailynews.com/2023/05/02/maine/maine-focus/maine-goal-electric-vehicles-joam40zk0w/>). And that jump stands out starkly with the additional solar and wind farms coming online. Even now, the electric grid can't keep up with consumer demand. With such a new demand put onto the grid, and as basic economic principles (high demand yields high prices), Mainers will be faced with skyrocketing electricity, far outstripping any new wind farms or solar farms.

2. Lack of Infrastructure. Maine is nearly completely rural. Where are the charging stations? In four years, the goal is to get 43% of all car sales to be electric, but where will these charging stations be located? Right there, there are only 430 stations in the state (https://www.energymaine.com/charging-station-locator/#/analyze?fuel=ELEC®ion=US-ME&show_map=true). How will Mainers cope with finding these rare stations? How will Mainers cope with the long lines that will surely occur due to the lack of infrastructure? How will post offices handle this with all the miles they travel? Or delivery services? The supply chain? How will this be affected during the tourist season? The answer is that Mainers won't. In addition to the lack of charging stations, charging an electric car takes 30 minutes to as long as half of a day, making long distance trips a nightmare, and making electric vehicles impossible for those who drive a lot of miles. Instead, Mainers will choose to drive their gasoline powered vehicles into the ground before switching to electric due to the lack of infrastructure, the additional time lost, and the exorbitant price that comes with buying and owning an electric vehicle, which leads me to the last, and most important, point.

3. The High Price of Electric Vehicles. As of February, 2023, the initial price of an Electric Vehicle is \$10,000 more than a gasoline powered vehicle. That's just the initial price. Then, you have to buy the house adapter. On top of that, an electric car battery will last between 100,00-200,000 miles. Replacing that battery costs between \$5,000-\$20,000 (<https://www.cars.com/articles/how-much-do-electric-car-batteries-cost-to-replace-465308/>). On top of that, it costs more to insure an electric vehicle, due to electrical vehicles being more expensive to repair. Maine is a poor state, with 11% of its population at the poverty level. Electric vehicles are priced far above what they can afford, and what a lot of the middle class can afford (I am one of them--I cannot afford an electrical vehicle--the initial price nor the upkeep and insurance). With the mandate in place, that poverty level would swell as the means to getting to work would be put further out of reach for those impoverished, and those of the lower middle class who would slip into poverty.

Dirigo, "I lead." It's the Maine state motto. If electric vehicles are a great idea, let the consumer decide. Let economic forces, and the will of the consumer, move that needle gradually as people adapt and choose for themselves. In the end, this draconian mandate will truly show how Maine leads the nation. Will Maine lead the nation as it plunges its people

into oppressive policies and sinks its people into a bleak swamp of poverty? Or will it lead by letting its people decide their own future, which is the basic principle this nation was founded on. I firmly oppose any sort of California-sque regulation that prohibits the sale of gas-powered vehicles in Maine.

Sincerely,

Scott Bloemendaal
Hollis, Maine.

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