



Lisa M. Keim
Senator, District 19
Assistant Republican Leader

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

August 17, 2023

Chair Susan Lessard
Maine Board of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Comments on Proposed Rules: Chapter 127-A, Advanced Clean Cars II Program & Chapter 128, Advanced Clean Trucks Program

Chair Lessard and the distinguished members of the Maine Board of Environmental Protection, I am Lisa Keim. I proudly represent the citizens of Senate District 19, which includes Northern Oxford County and communities in Franklin County. I am writing today in opposition to the proposed rules for Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program and Chapter 128: Advanced Clean Trucks Program.

Over the next few years, these proposals would essentially end the sale of gas-powered cars and trucks and replace them with zero-emission vehicles. The proposed regulations would require 43% of sales in Maine be zero-emissions vehicles for the 2027 model year, 68% for the 2030 model year, and 82% for the 2032 model year—approximately ten years away. We are nowhere near those percentages in current sales; Maine is not ready for this proposed shift- it is too drastic.

We do not currently have enough charging stations or an electricity grid that can handle the additional load throughout all areas in Maine. The gas stations lines of the 1970s would be a minor inconvenience to what Mainers could be facing -- imagine the same lines, but with each vehicle taking 30 minutes to 6 hours to fill up.

Additionally, many of the newer electric cars are very heavy. This is because the batteries, which are made from materials mined using child and slave labor, weigh hundreds to thousands of pounds more than regular engines. Increased consideration should be given to the safety impact, particularly to those in lighter vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Has the impact of this been adequately considered?

It is undeniable that these proposals would result in higher costs for manufacturers, which would be passed on to consumers. The potential savings on gas would not make up the difference in upfront costs and electricity costs. These higher costs disproportionately impact low income Mainers.

Maine already has some of the highest electricity prices in the country. The high cost of electricity is one of the most common concerns I hear from my constituents, many simply cannot keep up, and are falling into a financial hole that is deeply hurting every other part of their lives.

It is callous cruelty to push a proposal that will guarantee their electric bills skyrocket even further. And what will happen when we have huge winter storms that knock out power to hundreds and thousands of people?

Many people are interested in zero-emission vehicles, whether it is due to environmental concerns or an interest in saving money on gas. These vehicles make sense for some people, but not for others. Individuals should be able to make these decisions for themselves depending on their own needs and lifestyle.

In rural Maine, many residents routinely spend hours on the road as a necessary part of their life. These people should not be forced into expensive transportation options that also cause them to lose exorbitant amounts of time recharging their car or truck, rather than refueling in minutes.

Choice should be left to the people, not the government.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments against these proposed rules.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Keim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Keim
State Senator