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To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Comment on Chapter 127-A: Advanced Clean Cars II Program

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14 August 2023

Dear Bureau of Environmental Protection;

Having read the proposed new rule to adopt California emission standards over time - beginning in 2027 with 43 percent of new vehicles being zero emission and ramping up quickly to 82 percent through the 2032 model year, I am writing to urge the BEP to exercise caution.

Maine is a largely rural state as we all know – though sometimes those who live in its more urban areas tend to forget that it is. Winters can be harsh and cold. We don't yet know the total impact winter weather has on electric vehicle - the alternative to gasoline and diesel engine. We don't yet know how quickly cold weather can deplete the battery charge. While there are more and more charging stations being installed every day, they are still sparse in some of the state's more rural locales.

I have read accounts of motorists who have tried winter drives to see how their EV would perform – like the story linked here about a planned trip from New York To Washington DC – much more urban than Maine - that took nine hours – three of them charging the vehicle. Here is the link to the story as presented in Business Insider: [Road Tripping in New Toyota Electric SUV Showed Pitfalls of Mediocre EVs \(businessinsider.com\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/toyota-electric-suv-pitfalls-of-mediocre-evs)

We do know the new cars will be more expensive, as outlined in the rule-making facts. We know that almost certainly those costs will be passed on to the consumer. Maintenance costs of EVs are said to be less, but battery replacement, while reportedly rare, can be expensive, currently ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, according to Edmunds, the vehicle shopping and comparison company. We all know Maine incomes tend to lag behind the rest of New England - just plug that phrase into a search engine and any number of articles show up.

As well, most of Maine has very little public transportation and what there is isn't always available when and where needed. It just doesn't.

While there is definitely a place for EVs in Maine and while hybrids present a viable compromise, perhaps the best solution is to hold off on making any rulemaking on this matter for the next few years.

Thank you for reading this submission,

Tammy Bostwick Wells
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