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To our esteemed lawmakers of the great state of Maine,

The proposal of the Advanced Clean Car II act for Maine is critical to cleaning up our local air quality as well as the over 50% CO2 emissions caused by fossil fueled vehicles in our state. This is an established fact. The immediate effect of mostly zero emission vehicles, including trucks and other fossil fueled vehicles and equipment is undeniable! While we have been habituated to inhale large volumes of carbon monoxide gases being copiously emitted from so many cars and trucks, it is clear that this does not contribute to our health and well-being.

Similar to the way it was when cigarette smoking was allowed in all restaurants, public transportation and public buildings, not to speak of private homes, many never complained about the clouds of cigarette smoke that created a perpetual haze in most of our indoor spaces. But today, due to a nearly universal ban on smoking in any and all buildings, many would instantly protest it to be once again allowed to become commonplace as it once was. Why? Because it is so very obvious that our health is greatly affected by secondhand tobacco smoke and those who smoke must accept this fact whether they like it or not. It is part of “loving our neighbor as ourself”, putting ourselves in others shoes to think how our individual actions can detrimentally effect them.

Nearly everyone can remember how during the height of the COVID-19 crisis in early 2020, when there was a near total lockdown and very few vehicles were on the roads, that for one brief moment of time, large metropolitan areas of our country could see the stars at night, or have clear skies during the day. Those of us who advocate for clean air rejoiced, but our rejoicing was muted with the knowledge that as soon as the lockdown ended, it would be back to business as usual and the clearer skies and atmosphere would once again be burdened with toxic air pollution. As the saying fitly states “Everyone’s for progress, but no one’s for change.”

We are creatures of habit and find it hard to accept change, especially when it is forced upon us. Yet our societies have seen it necessary at important times of our history to do just that - make laws that force us to give up past privileges (or so we thought) so as to improve the health and welfare of our citizens overall. The free market can and does often make such changes for us, but not always, such as the careless and copious pollution of our rivers and streams, that was made illegal and with harsh penalties for those industries who continued to try to conduct business as usual. And as was stated at the hearing on August 17th, leaded gas was banned in our state for the very purpose of reducing harmful pollutants in our atmosphere. Yet there are still a few who to be sure, would stubbornly advocate the return of leaded gas!

Today, amidst many obvious signs before our eyes of human caused climate crisis's across our land, many decry any radical change to business as usual, some even being so stubborn as to purport that human caused climate change is good, while ignoring the effect it is having with dire consequences in other parts of the world or even our own country and state! This is absurd and must be dismantled, not strengthened! Forcing a greater and greater percentage of auto sales to be zero emissions, with the goal to be at 100 % in the near future (2035) is imperative to reduce our carbon footprint and make Maine a leader in our nation. If we don't, and instead cave into the false and misleading disinformation being peddled by willfully ignorant and some intentional denials by both fossil fuel corporations as well as those Maine citizens who are profited by fossil fuel, we will be the further cause of death and destruction of our fragile ecosystem. THIS MUST STOP!

I would wager to say, that by and large, the majority, if not all who oppose the proposed legislation of the Advanced Clean Car II act have NEVER RIDDEN OR DRIVEN AN ELECTRIC, ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLE TO ANY APPRECIABLE AMOUNT AND DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW GOOD AND ADVANCED THEY ARE! Once you drive one even for a short amount of time, and go through a few cycles of charging one, it becomes clear that they are far superior to the internal combustion engine vehicles which still make up the majority of vehicles in our state. Own one for over 4 1/2 years like myself, with no other vehicle to lean on, and it becomes overwhelmingly clear HOW MUCH BETTER ELECTRIC VEHICLES ARE! And please note, I live in central rural Maine all year, summer and winter.

So I urge you to approve of this proposed legislation, and know that by so doing, you are fast tracking a better future for all, especially our young people and those who are now children, and will be inheriting the environment we leave behind. We owe it to ourselves and to them. The results of these new laws will be clearly apparent. Especially in our urban areas where air quality is so important. But also in our rural area areas, where we are plagued with toxic fumes when walking or bicycling on many rural roads.

Please, Please, PLEASE do not allow the forces of bad thinking and greedy corporations to cloud your good judgement here. Please adopt and put into law the rules that will force us to abandon these extremely polluting devices we call gas or diesel cars for clean, zero emission vehicles. Our children will rise up to bless us (although they may wonder why it took us so long!)

Yours for a cleaner future for all,

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