

LD 63

Maine State House, Room 126

3.21.23

Thank you Representative Rudnicki and distinguished members of the committee on transportation. My name is Nicholas Hahn, and I am from Gardiner, here to testify in support of LD 63.

As a member of the foreign import community, I have been following these developments closely. I am concerned with first-hand accounts online of foreign vehicles that had been previously registered, receiving notices of nonconformance. From what I understand, the definition of an off-road vehicle was amended to include FMVSS standards and emissions in 2021.

In doing so, this new interpretation was so generic that it encompassed legally imported and registered foreign vehicles. These vehicles were imported under the 25 year rule and were exempt from these standards. Some owners received notices, completely unaware, that their registrations were being cancelled and the vehicle could not be operated on public roads. This is a troubling precedent as it was retroactively applied to vehicles imported before the amended definition.

The enthusiasts of this community are passionate about their vehicles and the hobby is a big part of their life. There's a robust online community of individuals from all over the world that enjoy chatting about the good and the bad of owning rare vehicles. Many are meticulously cared for vehicles that are garage kept and used for special occasions. I have made life long memories with family and friends on camping trips in my vehicle. While not common in Maine, in Japan, 25 year old vehicles still exist that are virtually rust free.

Those that have gone through the import process on their own, completed mountains of paperwork once the vehicle is eligible for importation. After months at sea they then face more paperwork to get the vehicles titled and registered. It is a long and painstaking process, only possible by the most detail oriented and passionate individuals. Not only is it time consuming, it can also be a costly endeavor. Some having 10s of thousands or more invested and have played by the rules.

As an enthusiast and someone that spends countless hours researching and maintaining rare vehicles, I believe there was an error made with the amended definition and it was not originally intended to include these vehicles. I would like LD 63 to clarify that imports are not part of this catch-all term.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Hahn

Nicholas Hahn
Gardiner
LD 63

Dear Justine Griswold,

I was planning to attend the public hearing for LD 63 on March 21, 2023 but I had something unexpected come up. I have attached a pdf with my letter to the Committee on Transportation. It would be very much appreciated if it could be added to the testimony or shared with the committee. Thank you.

Regards,
Nicholas Hahn