

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Ezra Sassaman, Advocacy Coordinator, Maine Climate Action Now
Date: March 19, 2024
Re: LD 2261: An Act Designating New Motor Vehicle Emissions Rules as Major Substantive Rules (OPPOSE)

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I am a resident of Bar Harbor and the Advocacy Coordinator for Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a statewide coalition of grassroots climate and justice organizations from across the state.

Nearly half of Maine's current greenhouse gas emissions are from the transportation sector. To effectively combat the climate crisis, Maine and other states need to undergo a swift transition away from fossil fuels. Among other things, this means phasing out gas-powered cars on a reasonable timeline.

The Advanced Clean Cars II standard is a great way to increase the transition to electric vehicles. This rule change is aimed at curbing emissions from the transportation sector and boosting the accessibility of electric vehicles. LD 2261 is an attempt to effectively nullify the thorough process that went into the creation of this rule, including the thoughtful input of environmental and public health experts. Without the timely adoption of this rule, meeting the goals of Maine's Climate Action Plan may not be possible in the timespan we need to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

The attempt to undermine the immediate adoption of this rule denies the reality of the electric vehicle boom and leaves Mainers stuck in the past. The sales of electric vehicles are surging at a remarkable pace. Pivotal automakers are unveiling plans to completely transition their light-duty vehicles to zero-emission models by 2035. Therefore, slowing the adoption of zero-emission vehicles leaves Mainers behind the curve, as the thirteen other states that have adopted these standards will be prioritized to receive new, cheaper electric car models.

These standards phase in gradually and only affect new car sales. They also only apply to large carmakers to supply more electric vehicles to Maine over time. Despite fear and misinformation spread by opposing interests, these rules include no requirements for any individual or business to buy any particular vehicle.

Expanding electric vehicle choices in Maine yields major benefits, including cleaner air, fuel cost savings, and reduced health impacts from gas emissions. Postponing and putting up barriers to the adoption of the Advanced Clean Cars II standard is not the right way forward for Maine. For the reasons above, we urge you to vote ought-not-to-pass on LD 2261. Thank you.

Ezra Sassaman
Maine Climate Action Now
LD 2261

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Ezra Sassaman, Advocacy Coordinator, Maine Climate Action Now
Date: March 19, 2024
Re: LD 2261: An Act Designating New Motor Vehicle Emissions Rules as Major Substantive Rules (OPPOSE)

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I am a resident of Bar Harbor and the Advocacy Coordinator for Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a statewide coalition of grassroots climate and justice organizations from across the state.

Nearly half of Maine's current greenhouse gas emissions are from the transportation sector. To effectively combat the climate crisis, Maine and other states need to undergo a swift transition away from fossil fuels. Among other things, this means phasing out gas-powered cars on a reasonable timeline.

The Advanced Clean Cars II standard is a great way to increase the transition to electric vehicles. This rule change is aimed at curbing emissions from the transportation sector and boosting the accessibility of electric vehicles. LD 2261 is an attempt to effectively nullify the thorough process that went into the creation of this rule, including the thoughtful input of environmental and public health experts. Without the timely adoption of this rule, meeting the goals of Maine's Climate Action Plan may not be possible in the timespan we need to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

The attempt to undermine the immediate adoption of this rule denies the reality of the electric vehicle boom and leaves Mainers stuck in the past. The sales of electric vehicles are surging at a remarkable pace. Pivotal automakers are unveiling plans to completely transition their light-duty vehicles to zero-emission models by 2035. Therefore, slowing the adoption of zero-emission vehicles leaves Mainers behind the curve, as the thirteen other states that have adopted these standards will be prioritized to receive new, cheaper electric car models.

These standards phase in gradually and only affect new car sales. They also only apply to large carmakers to supply more electric vehicles to Maine over time. Despite fear and misinformation spread by opposing interests, these rules include no requirements for any individual or business to buy any particular vehicle.

Expanding electric vehicle choices in Maine yields major benefits, including cleaner air, fuel cost savings, and reduced health impacts from gas emissions. Postponing and putting up barriers to the adoption of the Advanced Clean Cars II standard is not the right way forward for Maine. For the reasons above, we urge you to vote ought-not-to-pass on LD 2261. Thank you.