

Nancy B Chandler
Topsham
LD 622

Dear chair and Transportation Committee members. I am Nancy B Chandler, resident of Topsham, and my family owns two all electric cars, having sold my last gasoline car in 2023. I understand the desire to have all vehicles pay for use of state roads, including electric vehicles whose owners don't pay gas taxes.

Maine's Climate Action Plan, Maine Won't Wait, has goals to reduce vehicle miles travelled and reduce gasoline powered vehicle emissions of carbon dioxide which produce climate warming. Replacing many gasoline and diesel vehicles with electric vehicles is an essential strategy towards reducing climate warming emissions. Adding a \$250 per year electric vehicle charge adds a significant disincentive to buying an electric vehicle at a time when Maine car buyers are still learning the advantages of electric vehicles in lowered maintenance, no fossil fuel use if charging with solar electricity as we do, and clean air emissions.

I served on the Topsham Energy Committee for 4 years researching and preparing a Climate Action Plan for Topsham which townspeople will vote on May 28. Since many Topsham residents work out of town, and many people who work in Topsham live in surrounding towns, half of Topsham's greenhouse gases are produced by transportation. Continuing to increase electric car sales is essential to lowering greenhouse gases in Topsham, Brunswick and many parts of Maine.

I think a fairer way to assess road taxes would be based on miles per vehicle traveled. Our 3 family members don't commute to work and do fewer long trips, so the number of miles we travel on Maine roads with two cars has decreased from 20,000 miles per year to approximately 10,000 miles per year.

Elderly, retired, poor, and unemployed people use Maine roads less than others. This large segment of Mainers should be eligible for lower road fees, roughly aligned with their lower usage. Shouldn't there be a reward for those like my family, who limit their driving by concentrating trips and walking or biking when possible? So when I register my vehicle the clerk could calculate my electric car usage fee based on the miles travelled since last registration.

I support the idea of a user fee on non fossil fuel vehicles for state road building and maintenance, but I would like to see the committee adjust the fee based on amount of miles travelled. Please consider other incentives to reduce miles travelled in setting this fee structure, since the goal of lowering transportation based carbon emissions is essential to meeting the climate protection goals of Maine Can't Wait.