



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Michael Soboleski

11 Snowy Ridge Road
Phillips, ME 04966
Residence: (207) 400-7233
michael.soboleski@legislature.maine.gov

March 2024

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and my distinguished colleagues on the Environment & Natural Resources Committee, I am standing on the other side of the horseshoe today to present my bill LD 2261 "*An Act Designating New Motor Vehicle Emissions Rules as Major Substantive Rules*"

I have introduced this legislation with bi-partisan support to fix the provision of law that does not require legislative approval for regulations and requirements of this magnitude. LD 2261 provides that rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection regarding new motor vehicle emission standards, including rules to establish zero-emission requirements, are major substantive rules requiring legislative approval. This change could be retroactive to the date when the rules before you were submitted to the BEP. I believe that this decision belongs in the hands of Maine's elected officials.

Factory production of ZEVs is dwindling daily. Dealers currently have an average 90-day inventory on their lots not because of demand, but due to overstock created by people not buying them. That's extenuated by the fact that Ford CEO Jim Farley has now come out against ZEV production and has announced Ford will double down on what the "common man" loves "affordable combustion engine cars". While simultaneously shutting down production of its flagship ZEVs Ford is firing 700 Lightning truck EV production workers and has 92,000 unsold ZEVs piled up on dealer lots across the nation. They have lost 4.5 billion on EVs in ONE single year. Forced ZEV sales are catastrophic to their profits and to our economy.

Not just Ford but GM, Tesla, and Jeep hit the brakes on ZEV production. Citing 1.) high interest rates on expensive purchases 2.) poor range 3.) poor charging infrastructure. Toyota is scaling away from ZEV's favoring Hybrid's as the practical environmentally friendly option.

Over 3000 dealers from all states and all brands have sent an open letter to the Biden Administration. Their argument is straightforward and alarming. 1.) People are reluctant to buy 2.) Dealers have an excess of inventory on their lots. Their request: "Slow down the transition and stop forcing the common man to buy ZEVs" Additionally, Ford has delayed the second of two EV battery plants planned in Kentucky which will also hamper the implementation for the 2028 model year.

Manufacturers will not be manufacturing enough inventory to sustain a mandate of over 50% ZEV sales/inventory by 2028.

An Electric Vehicle requires 6x the minerals inputs of a conventional car and we are struggling to provide enough for the chip needs we have now.

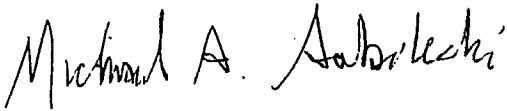
Are we going to tell apartment building owners they must install chargers?
What will we do without gas tax profits to repair our roads from the damage by heavier EVs?

We have to ask ourselves: Is it worth it to gut the Maine Auto Market, drain our critical mineral supply chain, destabilize our electric grid stability, and fracture our fragile state economy on a mandate we simply cannot attain? I've provided you with the numbers and they do not lie.

In closing, the mandate is for inventory on the LOTs, not sales. When fewer ZEV vehicles are available for new dealers' lots, what does it do to their total inventory? If only 10 ZEVs are available on the lot does that mean the dealer can only sell 20 total new cars from their lot? No dealer will survive, people will keep their old cars longer and older cars create more carbon emissions.

Hybrids are the solution to reducing carbon emissions in 2028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Soboleski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Michael A. Soboleski
State Representative