



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and distinguished members of the Committee on Environment & Natural Resources, my name is Joseph Underwood and I proudly serve the "Star City" of Presque Isle Maine in House District 5. I come before you today to express my support for LD 2261 sponsored by my friend and colleague Representative Soboleski.

It should be no secret why I, along with my fellow Legislative Colleagues from Aroostook County support Representative Soboleski's proposal to require rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection regarding new motor vehicle emission standards including rules to establish zero-emission requirements be categorized as major substantive rules. This legislation would give elected officials, rather than unelected bureaucrats the opportunity to vote on the requirement of Electric Vehicles being sold at private car dealerships.

No matter where your opinions on EVs stand, I think we can all agree that a decision as monumental as this should be carefully thought out and voted on by a body that was elected to represent the values of their respective communities.

As a proud, lifelong resident of Aroostook County, I can tell you that requiring motor vehicle dealerships to sell over 50% electric vehicles by the year 2028 will not work for my community. We simply cannot attain this mandate.

Aside from the instability of our electric grids, infringing on the rights of private businesses, & rupturing the state of our already fragile economy the reality is that as it stands, you would probably struggle to go from Augusta to Aroostook County in an Electric Vehicle because of a lack of chargers and I don't foresee that changing anytime in the near future to fit the unrealistic requirements proposed by the BEP.

I was elected to this body to be a voice for rural Maine citizens, and whether you are for or against EV's I urge you to support this Legislation to help give a say to those who cannot obtain this proposed rule change.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joseph F. Underwood'.

Joseph F. Underwood
State Representative

House District 3

