

March 20, 2024

Testimony in Support of LD 2261

An Act Designating New Motor Vehicle Emissions Rules as Major Substantive Rules

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Nathan Gould, and I am a lifelong resident of Winterport. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 2261, "An Act Designating New Motor Vehicle Emissions Rules as Major Substantive Rules."

Chapter 127-A: Advance Clean Cars II Program and Chapter 128: Advance Clean Trucks Program have such great an impact on the People of Maine that they must be considered major substantive rulemaking.

Throughout the 131st Legislature, there has been this underlying question: who is the State, and what is its purpose? Among the competing answers, one is that the state is the caretaker of all the peoples' needs, provider of equal things, overseen by professional bureaucrats who delineate our rights and whose decisions are rubber stamped by the Legislature acting on behalf of lobbyists.

There is another answer—the correct one: The State is we the People of Maine, as declared in our State's Constitution, the people being represented by and holding accountable those elected to serve in the Legislature, its purpose being to protect equal rights, which are given by the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe.

In reading the response by the BEP, I get the impression that our concerns were not heard, but are answered with excuses and promises of future technological

advances. Many concerns were given by citizens: the difficulties in dealing with battery fires, the need and cost for training more mechanics to repair electric vehicles, the slave labor used to gather materials for batteries, the cost of electricity, financial hardships of Mainers, and how forcing California-style rules in our state is not practical.

It is not the government's job to accelerate adoption or limit choices of any legal product. I do not want government officials, whether they be elected or appointed, to be merely salesmen or apologists. I want those civil servants to impartially manage the State's government and objectively evaluate legislation that impacts the People of Maine. I want ideas to be judged on their merits and adherence to our Constitution, and consequential proposals like Chapter 127 should be judged by the Legislature.

We're just about at the end of the 131st Legislature's public hearings, a last opportunity to hear the People of Maine, one final chance to perform that duty for which government was instituted: to protect our unalienable rights given by Almighty God, among these being life, liberty, and property—the pursuit of happiness.

A neighbor from a town down the road said, "don't turn Maine into California." Please place the responsibility back in the Maine State Legislature's hands—your hands—rather than that of a bureaucracy. We are a Republic. We aren't to be ruled by experts we didn't elect, and the only King I bow to is Christ Jesus.

I ask the Committee to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for considering my testimony, and thank you for your time.

Nathan C Gould

Winterport