

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network, and as the Chair of our Climate Action Team. Our organization strongly opposes LD 2261 "An Act Designating New Motor Vehicle Emissions Rules as Major Substantive Rules".

At a time when we should be doing everything possible to address climate change, LD 2261 would have the effect of taking a big step backward for Maine. I live in the village of New Harbor, and the two very serious (back to back) coastal storms we experienced back in January (of this year) were a very clear sign of the significant damage a changing climate has already had in my community. Our sea levels are rising every year, the intensity of storms has been increasing, and the storm surge back in January ripped apart docks and piers, washed away parts of people's land, homes, trees and other vegetation, and tore out sections of six different coastal roads in our town. Route 32 was closed for 2 months after the storm while they worked to rebuild a large section of the road. We've never experienced a storm before that has done this amount of damage on our peninsula.

If we want to try to prevent the escalation of climate-related events like the one here in Maine in January, then passing legislation that will serve to slow the adoption of zero emission cars and trucks for our state makes no sense. We know that almost half (49%) of our annual greenhouse gas emissions in Maine are caused by transportation. So transitioning to electric vehicles is one of the most effective actions we can take to avoid future climate disasters.

We should stick with our time-tested and nonpartisan process of working through the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) to adopt stronger emissions standards for vehicles, and NOT add the requirement to go through the legislature. This would have the effect of politicizing something that should remain nonpartisan, and would complicate and slow down the process to reach a goal we need to achieve very soon.

Members of our statewide organization think often of the world we are leaving our children and grandchildren. We want them to know that we are doing all we can to avoid leaving them with an uninhabitable planet. Please vote No on LD 2261.

Thank you,

Jill Linzee, Chair, Climate Action Team
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