

Thank you to the Chair and Committee members for allowing me to submit these written comments.

My name is Sandra Scholar. I am a full time Maine resident and registered voter. I write in opposition to LD 2261.

LD 2261 is a last-minute bill that undermines a non-partisan process that has been underway for nearly a year. And if this last year has taught us anything, it is that climate change is here, now, and it is already causing widespread property destruction and economic devastation. Maine has been making great progress in addressing climate change, while also giving Mainers more consumer choices. This bill would reverse that progress.

For more than 20 years, Maine has followed a nonpartisan process through the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) to adopt stronger emissions standards. Those emissions standards are based on science and evidence: that dirty air harms human health, especially the health of children and the elderly; that gasoline powered transportation is a major contributor to air pollution and to climate change; and, that electric vehicles (EVs) are key to addressing both air pollution and climate change.

LD 2261 singles out the Clean Cars Standards currently being considered by the BEP. It attempts to derail a year-long, thoughtful public health and environmental policy-making process that has already incorporated input and comments from thousands of Mainers, including many legislators. Slowing the adoption of zero emission cars and trucks would slow progress on Maine's clean air efforts and its work to address climate action, and it would give Mainers fewer choices.

The Clean Cars Standards are a reasonable and affordable approach to the EV transition.

- The Clean Cars Standards phase in gradually, starting with model-year 2028, allowing time for carmakers to ramp up production.
- Clean Cars Standards only apply to big car-makers to supply more EVs to Maine over time. There are no requirements for any person or business to buy any particular vehicle.
- Clean Cars Standards only apply to new car sales.
- The cost of electric vehicles is dropping [all the time](#), a trend backed by [tens of billions of dollars](#) in public and private investments in EV production spurred by the Inflation Reduction Act.
- EVs are already cheaper to fuel and own – analysts expect EVs will be cheaper than gas vehicles up front in just a few years.

Clean Cars Standards are essential to meet Maine's climate goals. Transportation accounts for nearly half (49%) of Maine's annual greenhouse gas emissions, more than any other sector.

Clean Cars Standards are the best option to get more EVs on the road in Maine and to successfully address climate change as a state. Maine's [Clean Transportation Roadmap](#), developed in 2021 to evaluate all of our policy options to reduce emissions from cars and trucks listed these standards as the number one recommendation.

These standards will ensure that Maine drivers and the businesses that want them can access the range of costs, models, and uses they need. Thirteen other states have adopted this standard. If Maine doesn't act, manufacturers will prioritize EV sales in those states, leaving Maine people out of the transition. New, cheaper EV models will go to other states first. Mainers will either have to buy dirtier and more expensive vehicles that will cost more to own and operate, or they will have to go out of state to buy EVs, meaning that Maine car dealerships will lose sales, hurting Maine's local economies.

Adopting Clean Cars Standards follows decades of precedent reducing pollution and increasing efficiency. Under federal law, Maine can choose one of two emissions standards: the weaker federal standard, or higher standards available to some states under [Section 177](#). Maine has chosen higher standards for efficiency and health since 2001. The Legislature authorized the BEP to adopt stronger standards three decades ago, and Maine has chosen higher standards for efficiency and health for years through routine technical rulemaking like that currently underway. Failing to adopt the Clean Cars standards would be the first time in over two decades that Maine reverted to the weaker standard.

Please do not turn back the clock on Maine's progress. Vote against LD 2261.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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Greenville Junction 04442

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