

Thursday May 8th 2008

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Not on our roads

May 1st 2008

The Economist Newspaper

Bureaucrats against electric cars, and progress

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kalavtar wrote:

May 02, 2008 11:12

I know of a '66 mini who can be lifted with two people and it was driven in Canadian traffic for a few years. I think it's better now for these manufactures since in the old days, people were killed for these kind of ideas. I would love to drive an electric car and it's so frustrating that these won't be allowed.

[Recommend \(1\)](#)[Report Abuse](#)**John Pope** wrote:

May 02, 2008 09:41

The great thing about electric cars is that you don't have to buy your power from a pump, you can't colour the power red, it could come from an untaxed source. No wonder some politicians don't like the idea.

[Recommend](#)[Report Abuse](#)**mister_w** wrote:

May 02, 2008 08:55

Transport Canada has been using safety concerns to justify protectionist policies for generations. I agree with the comment below that this is not likely to be to protect the oil industry. In fact the same regulations are also used to prevent the import of late-model European cars into the Canadian market, even when the identical vehicle is imported by a Japanese manufacturer. We were recently told by a Transport Canada official that it would be "impossible" to import a 2005 Subaru registered in Switzerland for this very reason.

[Recommend](#)[Report Abuse](#)**no_god** wrote:

May 02, 2008 03:05

Instead of banning LSVs why not ban SUVs? Which is the bigger threat to society at large? And as a motorcyclist in Vancouver I find it puzzling that these vehicles would be prohibited when my sportsbike with a top speed of 260kph and no seatbelt or airbag is happily permitted. I doubt the conspiracy theories about Alberta oil. Instead, I expect it's another case of government bureaucrats who are unable and unwilling to take a minimal amount of initiative when encountered with something outside the usual boiler plate routine.

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[Recommend \(11\)](#)[Report Abuse](#)[chanman819](#) wrote:

May 01, 2008 22:49

I'm not seeing the alleged big oil angle here. Given the tendency for cars to last for over a decade, the size of the market for such a car in Canada (a very middle-sized country in terms of population), and the impact of gas prices due to increased consumption in China and India, these folks seriously believe that the oil companies working the Alberta tar sands are expending the time and money to influence our civil servants to keep a few ten thousand Canadians from using less gas?

If, however, you suggest that this is a ploy by aluminium companies to artificially inflate demand for foil headgear, you may be on to something.

[Recommend \(5\)](#)[Report Abuse](#)[evanzant](#) wrote:

May 01, 2008 22:14

"Mr Epp reckons that his car should be allowed on urban streets with speed limits of around 50kph (30mph) or less." This seems quite reasonable. For 3 years I regularly got around Toronto's streets by bicycle--foregoing the car, which usually just sat in traffic--and often hit 50. Why not ban those too? No chance there against an SUV. And what about motorcycles? Short work for a distracted soccer mom. Seething civil servants are the bigger menace.

[Recommend \(8\)](#)[Report Abuse](#)[smartypantz](#) wrote:

May 01, 2008 20:21

It would be nice to see more LSVs on Canadian roads but the safety concerns are valid. Canadians (and Canadian law enforcement) are much more tolerant of speeding than our southern neighbours. Add to that the prevalence of SUVs and some nasty weather and road conditions and you can understand the concern.

[Recommend \(1\)](#)[Report Abuse](#)[idea-lism](#) wrote:

May 01, 2008 16:52

I think the point is that, if the cars are safe enough for so many states south of the border, why can't they be safe here?

If the test (on ONE car??) proved the cars won't pass, why not release the results?

When questions aren't being answered, one can only wonder.

[Recommend \(6\)](#)[Report Abuse](#)[Zakka](#) wrote:

May 01, 2008 16:21

It's hard to understand your article's point. Are you doubting the Canadian safety standards?

[Recommend \(4\)](#)[Report Abuse](#)

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