



April 18, 2023

**Testimony on LD 1519 Ought Not to Pass**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Operating Under the Influence**

Greeting distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

My name is James Tassé and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM). The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is the statewide organization that advocates for bicyclists and pedestrians, and to protect the safety and rights of vulnerable users of the public ways. The Coalition is opposed to LD 1519, which would weaken the laws concerning operating under the influence and its penalties. We urge an Ought Not To Pass report.

The Coalition opposes any change in policy that will make roads less safe, and driving under the influence of alcohol is a well-documented unsafe practice. LD 1519 both raises the permissible threshold for OUI from .08 to .09 by breath analysis, and reduces the period of time before a driver can have their license reinstated after losing it for an OUI offense. In effect, this bill would make it harder for law enforcement to charge OUIs in the field, and would make it easier for repeat offenders to get their licenses back.

For these reasons, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine opposes this bill.

Thank you for your time and service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "James Tassé".

James Tassé  
Assistant Director  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine

James Tasse  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine  
LD 1519

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