



April 24, 2023

Testimony in Support of LD 1621 An Act Regarding Environmental Justice

Greetings Chairpersons Senator Brenner and Representative Gramlich, and the distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

My name is Angela King and I am the Advocacy Manager for the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM). Our mission is to make Maine better and safer for bicycling and walking. On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1621 “An Act Regarding Environmental Justice.”

The promotion of active transportation has clear environmental implications. We see the work we do as related to environmental justice, both on the macro scale of fighting climate change, and on the micro scale of ensuring our transportation system is designed with and for stakeholders, especially those historically left out of the conversation. We support policies that would require community stakeholders to have more say concerning the impacts of public projects that require Department of Environmental Protection review and permitting.

MaineDOT rules require that transportation projects be reviewed for environmental impacts.¹ While this review focuses on impacts on “natural and cultural resources, such as wildlife habitats and historic places,” it does not put in the foreground the impact these projects have on communities who may have to live with the conditions a transportation project creates for decades. LD 1621 would help make the impact on communities clearer, and provide the public with mechanisms to engage with the review and permitting process to ensure that the impacts of any project are borne equitably.

Based on this injustice, and the rising climate crisis, the Department of Environmental Protection needs to revise its review procedures to ensure that the impact on these groups are considered in environmental review and permitting processes. Environmental justice is about the ability to live in and enjoy a clean and healthy environment regardless of race, color, income, and national origin. LD 1621 is a bill that will help achieve those ends, so The Bicycle Coalition of Maine urges an Ought to Pass vote on LD 1621.

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

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/lpa/docs/manual/2020/Manual2020Chapter4Env.pdf>

Angela King
The Bicycle Coalition of Maine
LD 1621

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