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LD 1559

Hello Chairman Chipman, Chairwoman Williams, and fellow members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Myles Smith, and I am a resident of Portland. My family of four is a one-car household, which is possible only in Portland thanks to its walkability and public transportation - and it's still barely feasible. We need better public transportation to connect the state for so many reasons.

Every time I take the train or bus for a work meeting in Biddeford, to meet friends in Boston or family in Freeport, I'm saving our state money, saving our environment, and reducing traffic on our highways. So many more people would make this choice this if we had better public transit.

I also think about the folks I see using our miserable bus system. In Auburn, where immigrants are housed in a hotel at the outskirts of town that is outside the reach of the public busses. In Portland, where I've seen folks waiting to transit across multiple bus lines to get from the discount grocery store by 95 back to their homes. And to the folks who, for health reasons or choices, can't use a bike to fill in the gaps in the public transit grid like I can. I would love to see a future where my kids could take a bus to see their grandparents in Durham or their great grandparents in South Paris. This bill would help pave the way to a future - and the future of our health and wellbeing depends on moving away from private cars.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Myles Smith