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RE: LD 1559, An Act to Advance the State's Public Transit Systems by Reinvigorating the Public Transit Advisory Council and Increasing Funding
TO: Committee on Transportation

Dear Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation,

I am writing today in support of LD 1559, An Act to Advance the State's Public Transit Systems by Reinvigorating the Public Transit Advisory Council and Increasing Funding. This bill provides necessary appropriation to support affordable, accessible, and convenient transportation. The LA Metro Chamber represents more than 800 businesses who employ 40,000 individuals, and the biggest concern facing businesses today are issues regarding workforce attraction and retention. Within this, transportation is one of the largest barriers noted by employees and employers alike. Investments are needed to help our resident workers get to work. Moreover, as Maine competes nationally for talent attraction, the lack of robust public transit infrastructure is often a deciding factor for highly skilled talent.

The changes proposed to Public Transit Advisory Council (PTAC) in this bill are positive changes that will enhance the representation of members on the council, and take a huge step towards ensuring our public transit investments work for all of our residents and workers. We urge you to consider these strategic investments into public transit, and pass LD 1559.

Thank you,
Shanna Cox

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shanna Cox'.

President + CEO
Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce