

Maya Faulstich  
Maine Youth Action  
LD 401

Dear honorable members of the Transportation Committee,  
My name is Maya Faulstich, I am a resident of Yarmouth ME and a student activist with Maine Youth Action, writing in support of LD 401: An Act to Improve Transportation in Maine.

Maine is a big state. It takes over five hours to drive from top to bottom. I am a high schooler who does not have her driver's license yet, but I still need to get to places, like appointments and events. Both my parents work and often can't drive me places I want or need to go. I was actually planning on traveling to Augusta to testify for multiple bills this week, but alas, I am not here in the same room as you for one reason. I could not find transportation. Soon, I will get my driver's license, but I'd still have to buy a car, and I'd be stuck with the same problem I have now. I make a little money, but certainly not enough for a car.

Public transportation would solve this problem for me. But in Maine, there isn't much efficient public transit. LD 401 could change that.

While my transportation inconveniences are important, what's more important is the state of our climate. Around 54% of Maine's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. To reduce these emissions and meet our climate goals, we need to support and invest in low-carbon public transportation. We all saw the floods that happened twice in the last two months and destroyed roads and homes in Maine. Paying for the cost of climate change later on is far more expensive than addressing it right now. Public transit is one of the most effective ways to reduce transportation emissions, so investing some effort into improving our public transit is crucial for improving our future.

Sincerely,  
Maya Faulstich