



P.O. Box 4629
Portland ME 04112

207-807-4900
David.Clough@nfib.org
www.NFIB.com

February 12, 2024

To: Sen. Nicole Grohoski and Rep. Joe Perry, co-chairs
Members, Committee on Taxation

From: David R. Clough, State Director in Maine

Re: LD 499 – An Act to Create a Commuter Benefit

This statement in opposition to the sponsor's January 30th proposed amendment is on behalf of the thousands of small business owners in Maine who are members of the National Federation of Independent Business. NFIB members are located throughout Maine and are engaged in a wide range of business activities. They collectively provide paychecks to about 30,000 families and represent the backbone of communities and the State of Maine.

LD 499 as redrafted by the sponsor's January 30th proposed amendment would require employers of more than 20 employees to offer employees a pretax commuter benefit of up to \$300 per month. We believe this unprecedented mandate could create significant financial planning issues as well as increase state and federal tax compliance headaches and costs for affected small businesses. The "shall...offer to those employees" is vastly different from other discretionary tax credits that an employer may or may not wish to use.

NFIB is neither for nor against an optional state pre-tax credit for commuting employees.

Thank you for being mindful of Maine small business owners and how they help make our state prosper.