

Mark Curtis  
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LD 1549

Chair, members of the Transportation Committee,  
My name is Mark Curtis, and I am a resident of Gorham in Maine. I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1549, the Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine regarding the use and oversight of transportation-related revenues.

#### Why LD 1549 Matters

LD 1549 addresses a longstanding issue in Maine: ensuring that revenues collected from transportation-related sources, such as sales and use taxes on motor vehicles, are used as intended for the maintenance and improvement of our transportation infrastructure. This amendment would constitutionally guarantee that, beginning July 1, 2027, at least 60% of the sales and use tax revenue collected from motor vehicle dealers and by the state department is dedicated to transportation purposes.

#### Benefits of Constitutional Protection

- Transparency and Accountability:** By enshrining this requirement in the Constitution, LD 1549 will prevent future diversions of these critical funds to unrelated purposes. This ensures that taxpayers can trust that their contributions are being used to maintain roads, bridges, and other vital infrastructure<sup>710</sup>.
- Long-Term Planning:** Stable, protected funding will allow the Maine Department of Transportation and local governments to plan and execute long-term projects with greater certainty, leading to more efficient use of resources and better outcomes for Maine residents and businesses<sup>7</sup>.
- Public Trust:** Mainers expect that taxes and fees collected for transportation will be used for transportation. LD 1549 honors this expectation and strengthens public trust in state government.

#### Meeting Maine's Transportation Needs

Our state faces significant challenges in maintaining and upgrading its transportation network. With aging infrastructure and increasing demands, dedicated funding is more important than ever. By guaranteeing a baseline investment from existing revenue streams, LD 1549 helps ensure that Maine can address these challenges proactively rather than reactively.

#### Conclusion

I urge the Committee to support LD 1549 and send it to the full Legislature and, ultimately, to the people of Maine for approval. This amendment is a prudent, responsible step that will protect Maine's transportation future and the integrity of our public finances.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

April 29, 2025

This testimony is in support of LD 1549, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use and Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues