

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Transportation

From: Eric Ames

Date: April 4, 2024

Re: [OFFICIAL TITLE OF THE BILL – i.e., “An Act to...”] [DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING]

Amy will provide this information when we get it.

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Committee on Transportation, my name is Eric Ames and I am 21 years old and a resident of Sanford. I graduated from [INSERT YOUR MOST RECENT SCHOOLING (HS or PROGRAM) here].

For Maine to meet its climate goals we need to encourage investment in public transportation and safer streets in the state. I think we need more clean transportation options like more frequent and reliable public transportation. And as someone who walks or scooters in good weather I know we need safer streets and sidewalks.

I currently live with my parents and for the past two years I have been working at Sanford Middle School as a Custodian. Up until last May (2024) I rode the York County Community Action Corporation’s Wave bus. The Wave is by reservation only and was free but now charges \$5 per ride. Last May I got an electric scooter and I like to ride in good weather. I ride on the sidewalk and move onto the edge of the road when there are other people. In October (2024) when the weather got cold and dark I wanted to ride the Wave to work again. But there was no room for me on the list. They are always booked and have a shortage of drivers so I haven’t been able to ride the bus again. I have to rely on my parents to drive me to and from work.

The Wave serves only three other towns (Sanford, Springvale, Biddeford and Wells) and does take people at night or on the weekends to places but only if you are on the list and I am not. I want to be more independent but need the bus to do so. I would also like to be able to go to other places on the bus.

I wish Maine was linked together by buses so that I could have flexibility and could go anywhere in Maine.

To meet my growing transportation needs as a young adult wanting more independence it is time to plan for a smarter, cleaner public transportation future in Maine. Please vote ‘Ought to Pass’ on LD # Thank you for your work on our behalf.