

Lina Martinez Nocito  
Farmington, ME  
April 30, 2025

Chair Nangle, Chair Crafts, and distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation:

My name is Lina Martinez Nocito, and I am a sophomore at the University of Maine at Farmington and a legislative organizer with Maine Youth Power, a rural, youth-led movement fighting for human dignity, equity, and a livable future for all. I'm writing today to express my strong support for LD 1138.

Climate action is immensely important to me, and LD 1138 would play a key role in helping our state progress towards its climate goals. A staggering portion of Maine's greenhouse gas emissions—a full 49%—come from the transportation sector, so the attention to the development of clean transportation options that this bill would foster is essential.<sup>1</sup>

LD 1138 would also support much-needed improvements to our public transportation system, which is currently meeting just 11% of demonstrated need.<sup>2</sup> That current dearth of public transit infrastructure has serious implications for young people such as myself—in my own experience, there too often are not jobs within walking distance in rural parts of the state, so many young Mainers find ourselves stuck, unable to get transportation to jobs that would enable us to save enough to buy our own vehicles. This bill would give many young people more transportation options, enabling increased employment, involvement with sports and other extracurriculars (many schools, such as my high school, do not provide late buses), and other opportunities.

Additionally, as a young person, I'm keenly aware of the high risk my peers and I are at of being involved in a serious car accident. According to the CDC, car accidents are the leading cause of death among people between the ages of thirteen and nineteen; in 2020, for instance, they resulted in the deaths of 2800 teenagers and the injury of another 227,000.<sup>3</sup> This bill would support the development of safer transportation options that would help prevent such tragedies.

LD 1138 would promote the development of a safer, more accessible, more sustainable transportation system that would better serve the needs of all Mainers. I hope you will choose to support it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely,  
Lina Martinez Nocito

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/climateplan/taking-action/actions-for-vehicles>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jtgfoundation.org/2025/01/data-brief-shows-gaps-in-maine-families-access-to-transportation/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/teen-drivers/risk-factors/index.html>