



Good morning Chair Nangle, Chair Crafts, and distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation.

My name is Phoebe Dolan, I live in Belfast Maine and I am a Co-Director of Maine Youth Power. Maine Youth Power, a youth-led, youth movement throughout rural and suburban Maine fighting to win human dignity, equity and a livable future for all. I am here today on behalf of my organization to ask that you support LD1138: An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan.

Maine Youth Power is proud to support LD1138 as one of our priority bills for this legislative session, as this bill is the perfect answer to the issues that we hear from young Mainers most often. Last fall, Maine Youth Power ran a months-long issue survey where we heard from over 100 young Mainers from all across the state about what political issues mattered the most to them. "Climate action, agriculture, and transit" was ranked as *the* most important issue in this survey, and within that category, "expanding rail and bus services" was a top priority.

As a child in Maine, getting from place to place was always a constant struggle, I found myself often biking long distances to get to summer jobs and work, as well as coordinating with friends constantly for rides when the weather was bad or my parents were working late. It is a privilege to drive in Maine, which means there need to be viable alternatives, for children, new Mainers, or those who do not have access to single occupancy vehicles. We know that carpooling and other types of shared transit options already exist but LD1138 would require that we expand options as we grow our state's transit plan.

My mother is an employer in Brunswick, Maine. She has applicants from Lewiston applying to work for her program. Often they can't accept positions because they are unable to get to Brunswick. While she has staffing shortages and struggles to make her program run, potentially employees are without jobs less than 45 minutes away. Transit options, buses that run on time and on specific routes would solve issues such as these and lead to better economic opportunities for Mainers everywhere as well as all the benefits of emission reductions, potentially fewer car accidents or drunk drivers.

I believe with the increased transit options, Maine will be able to retain and attract more young Mainers to work and live in our lovely state. Please support LD 1138.

Thank you for listening,
Phoebe Dolan