

To: Committee on Transportation, Maine State Legislature

From: Anna Lupien

Date: 05/01/25

RE: Testimony in Support of L.D. 1138: “An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan”

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Anna Lupien, and I am a resident of Waldoboro, ME. I am the president of the climate action club at a local highschool, and one of 500+ youth associated with Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ), an organization dedicated to advocating for a fair, liveable, and sustainable future in the state of Maine.

I strongly urge you to pass L.D. 1138. MYCJ staunchly encourages the passing of this bill to ensure that future projects taken on by the Maine Department of Transportation adhere to the recommendations of the Maine Climate Council plan. I, like many rural residents of our state, am incredibly reliant on roads and infrastructure surrounding transportation. I have almost no options for public transportation, and find myself alone in the car more often than I would like. While our public transportation system truly has a long way to go, ensuring sustainability in ongoing developments is a crucial step in creating a lasting foundation for a future system of green transportation.

49% of all of Maine’s carbon emissions originate in the transportation sector<sup>1</sup>, which is an alarmingly high number. This is not unexpected for a rural state, with few walkable communities and limited transportation options. However, this number must decrease to align with recommendations from the Maine Climate Council. Currently, Maine DOT is not required to make a climate impact assessment of projects, as recommended in the *Maine Wont Wait* climate plan. This is incredibly risky, and short-sighted. The passing of this bill would ensure climate pollution assessments, forcing Maine DOT to examine new developments from an environmental angle.

These recommendations would hopefully ensure transparency in our transportation sector, which I believe is incredibly important. It is critical that Mainers are given information about projects that will directly affect their wellbeing. We deserve to know the climate impacts of developments in the state. As a youth advocate, who will inherit the planet and the crisis that it faces, I hope to see L.D. 1138 passed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely, Anna Lupien

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<sup>1</sup> State of Maine, Governor’s Energy Office: Clean Transportation. <https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/clean-transportation>