

Testimony of Kim Suhr

In Support of LD 1549: *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use and Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues*

May 1, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Kim Suhr, President of Wyman & Simpson, Inc. Wyman & Simpson was founded in 1924 and is one of Maine's most long-lived and respected construction companies. We specialize in the construction of highways, bridges, hydro-electric and marine construction. Today, I am writing in support of LD 1549, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use and Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues.

Should the Legislature pass LD 1549, Maine people would get to decide if Maine's Constitution should be amended to require at least 60% of sales and use tax generated by automobile sales be transferred to the Highway Fund to be used for transportation infrastructure.

The maintenance of Maine's roads and bridges has been underfunded for decades, creating a backlog of necessary and more costly work. When maintenance is deferred, the condition of our infrastructure continues to degrade, making repairs more difficult and expensive. Additionally, not knowing from year-to-year if MaineDOT will have enough funding to complete the Work Plan makes it harder for companies like mine to plan. Having a protected, dedicated revenue stream to the Highway Fund will support the long-term planning at MaineDOT and provide industry stability for construction firms across the state.

Maine is a rural state where basically every household needs a car to get to school, work or the grocery store. Additionally, our roads take a beating every year because of our harsh weather. These facts require that we make transportation funding a priority and transferring 60% of sales and use taxes generated by car sales makes sense.

I respectfully request the committee vote in favor of LD 1549 and I would like to thank Senator Farrin for submitting this important legislation. Thank you.