



Committee on Transportation
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

May 1, 2025

RE: LD 1138, An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation,

My name is Ania Wright and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation non-profit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine’s wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1138, *An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan*.

Climate change is the most significant threat to Maine’s wildlife and habitat. Impacts to wildlife and habitat due to climate change under a “business as usual” scenario in which Mainers continue at the same levels of consumption and emission of fossil fuels are particularly severe. Transportation contributes more to climate pollution than any other sector in Maine. Reducing transportation pollution is “Plan A” in Maine’s Climate Action Plan,¹ but we aren’t making the progress we need to hit our climate goals.

Climate smart projects like public transit and walkable communities aren’t just good for our climate—they’re proven tools to boost local economies, increase access to essential goods and services, reduce air pollution, improve community safety, and reduce transportation costs for Maine residents. Additionally, these policies benefit wildlife.

It’s estimated that one million vertebrates are killed on U.S. roadways each day. That’s about one every 11 seconds.² Animals need to move. They move daily to access food and shelter, seasonally to seek

¹ Maine Won’t Wait - Climate Action Plan. (November 2024).

www.maine.gov/climateplan/sites/maine.gov.climateplan/files/2024-11/MWW_2024_Book_112124.pdf

² Maine Audubon. *Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road?* (n.d.).

<https://maineaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/HabitatSP18-TurtleCrossRoad.pdf>

protection from heat and cold, and they move throughout their lives as they grow from immature creatures dispersing from nursery habitat, to adults seeking mates and nesting habitat.

As habitats shift due to a changing climate, wildlife movement becomes an important adaptation strategy for species survival as they seek new habitats in a shifting landscape. When roads are built in and through and between habitats, they can impede movements, separate populations, and kill individuals through collisions with vehicles. In this way, roads can have a huge impact on individuals, populations, and entire species of wildlife.

LD 1138 would put Maine on the right path by prioritizing investment in clean, safe, and affordable transportation options that will help us to reach our climate goals and protect wildlife. We encourage you to vote 'ought to pass.' Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ania Wright
Policy Advocate