

Nola Prevost
Brewer
LD 1138

Dear members of the Committee on Transportation,

My name is Nola Prevost, I'm a writer, a Maine Master Naturalist, and administrator at the University of Maine, and I'm writing to encourage you to support LD1138 to increase our state's clean transportation options. This is an excellent opportunity to take Maine's climate action goals to the next level by advancing our understanding of weather impacts on future investments, and incentivizing clean, safe, and accessible transportation throughout the state.

Aside from my experience as a climate and conservation advocate, my interest in seeing this bill passed is primarily based on my experience as a Maine resident who actively tries yet still struggles to reduce my carbon footprint. When my old car finally died on me, I found myself wishing that I could just commute on the bus instead of having to invest in a vehicle just for myself, especially with how the market has been the past few years. But the bus doesn't come to my house, so I would have to drive at least 5 to 10 minutes just to the nearest bus stop, so I would already need some sort of vehicle to get me there anyway. So when I looked into getting a car that was efficient and reliable, I was surprised to see that there simply were no electric or even hybrid options available in the greater Bangor area, affordable or otherwise. I ended up going with a small but still gas-emitting vehicle because it was my only option in my price range. But even if I were to drive to the bus stop, because of the lack of buses and multiple bus switches I would need to do, it would take me almost an hour and a half just to get to work, one way. And trust me, it wasn't my choice to live so far away from my place of work, but this isn't exactly the space to talk about the housing crisis, although it certainly intersects with issues of transportation.

And I know that I'm not the only Mainer who is passionate about reducing their impact on the environment but limited by the lack of current clean transportation options that don't come with great personal drawbacks. But LD 1138 can help all of us move toward a more sustainable future. Even just with the impact assessment outlined in section 2, by studying what areas need the most support we can learn what solutions will be most effective. If I've learned anything from my work as a nature educator and my experience in higher education, it's that knowledge - and communicating that knowledge - is power. And given how much information we stand to gain from just some of the proposals in this bill, every Mainer also stands to gain that power. To be able to make decisions that align with our values, and support the health and wellbeing of all. That's why I ask that you vote in favor of LD 1138.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,
Nola Prevost