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Testimony of Senate President Mattie Daughtry in support of LD 1138, "An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan" Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation May 1, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23, including Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and Yarmouth. I am honored to be a co-sponsor of LD 1138, "An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan".

Right now in Maine, transportation emissions are the largest source of climate pollution. If we could make a difference on transportation emissions, we make a serious dent in the problem. Climate change is a critical issue that is already impacting Mainers directly and financially. We've seen once-in-a-century storms, we've seen costly damage to our infrastructure. These climate harms are not born equally by all Mainers, they are disproportionately felt by low-income communities who have the most challenge rebuilding. Reducing our climate footprint as a state is critical to ensuring a just, equitable, and healthy future for our communities.

While the role of our transportation system in the search for climate solutions is a daunting problem, it also presents a great opportunity to reduce our state's climate footprint. By adding the application of the State Climate Action Plan to the Department of Transportation's decision making process, we can plan for a climate smart future in one of our highest polluting sectors. In doing so, we can create economic benefits, plus health and safety benefits that will uplift all Mainers.

I urge each of you to consider LD 1138. Together, we can take meaningful action to align our actions in our most polluting sector with our incredibly important climate goals and uplift Mainers in the process. Thank you for your time and consideration.