

## **Ought to Pass**

### **Testimony on LD 1138, “An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan”**

Good afternoon, distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation. My name is James Tassé, and I am an active transportation consultant and the former assistant director and policy lead for the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. I am providing testimony in support of **LD 1138, “An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan.”** I urge an “Ought to Pass” vote.

I have worked with the MaineDOT for a decade and a half, and I’m happy to note that the Department has improved its processes and commitments with respect to climate resilience over the last 15 years. Nonetheless, more could be done.

LD 1138 presents an opportunity for the state to assess the impact of transportation projects on the forces driving climate change. While action on mitigating or preventing climate change is at the moment not a popular subject, climatologists are largely in agreement on the science that describes the factors contributing to a warming climate in Maine, and greenhouse gases are at least one of the proverbial “smoking guns” causing the changes. These changes, in turn, impact all aspects of Maine’s economy, infrastructure, and lifestyle.

As transportation produces the majority of climate-change-driving greenhouse gas emissions in Maine, this bill, if it becomes law, will help the Department better understand and manage the consequences of expanding infrastructure that primarily supports fossil fuel vehicles. Passing this bill will add strength to Maine’s Climate Action Plan by creating a process to assess the impacts of transportation projects on greenhouse gas emissions, and to better align them with efforts to reduce such emissions.

Maine can lead the country on this issue. I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 1138

Sincerely,

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James C Tassé  
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LD 1138

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