

To: Committee on Transportation, Maine State Legislature
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025



RE: Testimony in Opposition to L.D. 622: “An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration”

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

My name is Jackson Chadwick, and I am the Advocacy Director for Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ) and a resident of Bangor. MYCJ is a statewide organization of over 500 youth who advocate for bold climate action and transportation policies. We connect youth with the Maine Legislature through educational programming and events, such as the Youth Day of Action on April 17th, which welcomed over 150 youth to Augusta.

On behalf of MYCJ, I am testifying in opposition to L.D. 622, which would establish a surcharge on electric vehicle (EV) registration.

This legislation would effectively penalize Mainers for driving EVs to reduce transportation sector pollution. Additionally, the revenue generated by implementing a surcharge on EVs would not solve Maine’s transportation funding crisis; it wouldn’t even come close. This bill would only produce 1.5% of the projected \$280 million highway fund shortfall through 2027. Simply put, this is not a solution.

EVs are not the cause of our current funding problem. While more Mainers are opting to purchase EVs, they account for less than 2% of all vehicles on the road. Taxing fewer than 2% of cars won’t solve much, and it disincentivizes the thousands of Mainers attempting to reduce road pollution.

Our highway fund shortfall exists because the 125th Maine Legislature decoupled the gas tax from inflation in 2011. As a result, the loss of gas tax revenue accounts for 86% of the projected funding gap for fiscal years 2026-2027. If we are to address such a large funding gap, the Legislature should consider practical options, not those that resolve only 1.5% of the problem.

Thank you for considering our organization’s testimony.

Sincerely,