

May 8, 2025

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

I am writing to express Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's (MMCC) strong opposition for LD 1809, *An Act to Further Stabilize Highway Fund Revenue*. While we agree that we need to keep up with infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, we believe that this is not the mechanism in which to achieve that.

In fact, Mid-Maine Chamber's committee members were universal on their dislike of every piece of this bill. MMCC frowns upon the targeting of EVs when the state has put a focus on climate change reduction. This suggests that people should be punished for doing what the state has asked them to do – reduce carbon emissions. MMCC feels that the third funding source – delivery charges – unfairly targets the poorest among us that may be lacking reliable transportation, as well as businesses like the 650 Mid-Maine Chamber members that we represent. Lastly, MMCC is concerned that targeting non-commercial, out-of-state vehicles may send the wrong message to tourist, and tourism is Maine's largest industry.

In short, Mid-Maine Chamber opposes LD 1809. Perhaps if this committee were to reconsider its position on LD 487 to apply for federal grant dollars specifically dedicated to rural passenger rail studies, and the state of Maine were to, in fact, extend passenger rail, that there wouldn't be such a reliance on the highways and would not deteriorate so quickly, not to mention the climate benefits and improved freight rail that a passenger rail upgrade would provide.

I appreciate your time and consideration, and I welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,



Kimberly N. Lindlof
President & CEO