

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to

LD 1875 – *An Act to Create Equity in Maine's Highway Funding by Imposing a Road Use Fee for Electric Vehicles*

May 14, 2025

Sen. Nangle, Rep. Crafts, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting written testimony in opposition to LD 1875 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee, which establishes the association's positions on all municipally relevant legislation.

Although our policy committee has supported bills seeking to more appropriately shift road maintenance and improvement costs onto owners of electric vehicles, they have elected to oppose LD 1875, as there appears to be competing goals at play. While one goal seeks to both shift burdens among those who travel across Maine roads and bridges and raise the revenues necessary to more adequately maintain state and municipal roads, the other approach seeks simply to more fairly shift burdens among users of Maine's transportation network. Though both methods are laudable, municipal leaders support the approach that implements initiatives that increase the revenues available to fund needed road and bridge maintenance projects, without shifting additional burdens on current fuel and property taxpayers. Since as proposed, LD 1875 would use the newly generated revenue to suspend the collection of gasoline tax, the policy committee opposes the bill.

Additionally, some municipal leaders have raised concerns with the role municipal staff, who are already stretch thin, would play in this effort. While as presented, staff would be required to provide the mileage forms to owners of electric vehicles and to submit to the state any returned forms, which is a mandate, the fear is that it will only be a matter of time before front line staff in towns and cities across Maine will be asked to assess and remit the collected revenue to the state. To put it succinctly, front line municipal staff are not interesting in becoming "the mileage police."

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this issue.