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DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

**An Act to Authorize the Efficiency Maine Trust to Establish a Program to Support the Uptake of Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicles by Maine Businesses and to Establish a Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project
L.D. 122**

**GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE
February 2, 2023**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT): My name is Ethan Tremblay, and I am an Energy Policy Analyst in the Governor's Energy Office (GEO).

The GEO testifies in general support of L.D. 122.

L.D. 122 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. Based on the bill summary, the GEO understands the bill would establish a program using federal or other funding sources to support uptake of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emissions vehicles by businesses in the State, administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust in collaboration with the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), and the GEO. The program would be required to include, but not be limited to, a rebate program to support the purchase of medium-duty and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles and associated charging or fueling infrastructure.

The Efficiency Maine Trust would also be authorized to establish a vehicle-to-grid pilot project to evaluate the benefits of using battery electric medium-duty and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles, such as electric school buses and freight trucks, as energy storage resources that can deliver electricity to the grid when the vehicles are not being used for transportation.

Maine has already successfully pursued federal funding to support deployment of medium-duty and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles. In October 2022, 13 school districts across the state, with the support of the Department of Education, Department of Environmental Protection, and GOPIF, were awarded rebates from the Environmental Protection Agency under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to deploy up to 34 new electric school buses.

As these and other vehicles are placed in service across the state, there are likely to be useful opportunities to explore their use as energy storage resources through vehicle-to-grid (V2G) or vehicle-to-building (V2B) technologies. V2G has the potential to deliver significant benefits to both vehicle owners and electricity customers through innovative technologies that allow vehicle batteries to provide energy, grid balancing, and other services to the electrical system.

The GEO is generally supportive of these concepts. We look forward to reviewing any new amendments to the bill and working with the sponsor and committee on language and implementation, including the role of the GEO and other agencies and potential sources of funding including federal funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ethan Tremblay". The signature is stylized with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ethan Tremblay, Energy Policy Analyst
Governor's Energy Office