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May 2, 2023

**Testimony of Meghan Russo
Maine Department of Transportation
Before the 131st Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

In Opposition to LD 932

An Act Requiring Climate Impact Notes on Proposed Transportation Legislation and Agency Rules

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Meghan Russo, Manager of Legislative and Constituent Services for MaineDOT. MaineDOT respectfully opposes LD 932.

This bill would result in the preparation of a statement concerning the climate impact for proposed transportation legislation and rules, like fiscal notes that all bills have.

It would require DEP to prepare emissions calculations for proposed transportation legislation and rules, including the Highway Fund Budget. If MaineDOT were required to prepare a climate impact statement for the budget, this would include all projects, and would be a significant lift.

Two other states, Colorado and Oregon, have started calculating carbon emissions from transportation projects, using emissions associated with transportation planning and emissions attributed to maintenance and construction projects, respectively. These analyses involve a *significant* amount of modeling, staff, and consultants.

MaineDOT currently does not have the resources to support this work and would be required to hire several new positions or consultants. Project-specific emissions modeling would be an added cost. Additionally, a measure such as what is proposed in this bill could delay critically needed projects, such as bridge repairs/replacements, therefore posing a risk to public safety.

Thank you for your consideration. As always, we are more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

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