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*Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder in support of*  
**LD 1451, An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation*

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of **LD 1451, An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation**.

I am Representative Amy Roeder and represent House District 23, which includes a portion of Bangor – a city where public transportation isn't just an option but a necessity. Each year, more than 400,000 rides are taken on the Community Connector system, making it one of the most heavily used in the state. And yet, I hear every week from constituents who are late to medical appointments, can't reach job interviews or miss therapy because routes don't reach far enough or run frequently enough.

Penobscot County has more than 5,200 households without access to a car. That includes working parents, students and people in recovery who rely on public transportation to keep their lives moving forward. When those systems fall short, so does opportunity.

LD 1451 provides a way to do better. It supports regional collaboration so that communities like Bangor can work in partnership with others to design more responsive, people-centered solutions. These solutions should reflect the needs of the people who actually use the system, many of whom don't work a 9-to-5 job, who are navigating childcare or recovery, or who need to get across town for a shift that starts at 6 a.m.

The truth is, our downtowns, our small businesses and our entire workforce benefit when people can show up on time, safely and consistently. And that only happens when our transportation systems meet people where they are.

As someone who leads a peer-run recovery center and serves on the Labor Committee, I understand the impact that missed connections, literal and figurative, can have on a person's success. LD 1451 gives us the tools to close those gaps.

I'm proud to support a bill that puts real people and real lives at the center of our transportation strategy. Let's make sure Mainers can move forward with dignity, stability and access to the community connections that help us all thrive.

Thank you.