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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony in Support of LD 1451 – *An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation*

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

I am Senator Marianne Moore. I represent some of the most rural and geographically isolated areas in our state, Washington County and 16 Communities in Eastern Hancock County—where transportation access is not a convenience, but a necessity. In these regions, residents often travel great distances just to reach medical care, grocery stores, or social services. Many do not drive, and some live miles from the nearest paved road. Since moving to Maine in 2001, I've spent much of my time working to ensure older adults, families, and individuals in these communities are not forgotten.

In Washington and Hancock Counties, I hear the same thing again and again, "*neighbors helping neighbors*", often with no formal system in place. That spirit is what keeps rural Maine going; however, we can't rely solely on goodwill when it comes to medical appointments, meal access, or cancer treatment.

LD 1451 helps formalize and strengthen the kinds of community-based solutions that are already working, like volunteer driver programs and ride coordination partnerships. These local solutions are cost-effective and trusted, but they need consistent support to grow and be sustainable

This bill also supports the development of regional Mobility Management Hubs, which allow communities to tailor services to local geography and needs. This includes training Mobility Navigators, people who help older adults, caregivers, and patients navigate the transportation system and make sure no one falls through the cracks.

Right now, 40% of Maine adults report experiencing transportation insecurity, the inability to access needed services or destinations comfortably, conveniently, and affordably. This is not a fringe issue. It's a public health issue, and it's one we can address, with better coordination, not bigger bureaucracy.

In areas like mine, coordination isn't just efficient—it's essential. LD 1451 will reduce duplication, improve outcomes, and empower local providers to do what they already do best: help people. It's an example of thoughtful, responsive government—working with communities, not around them.

Thank you for your time and for your work on behalf of all Mainers. I respectfully urge your support of LD 1451.