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Testimony of Dale Doughty
Maine Department of Transportation
Before the 132nd Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

In Opposition

LD 1451, *An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation*

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Dale Doughty, and I am the Deputy Commissioner at the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). MaineDOT is in opposition to LD 1451 as it seeks to create another group whose purpose is to issue policy recommendations for populations experiencing transportation insecurity.

While we appreciate the bill's intent to address transportation insecurity for vulnerable populations, the structure and mandates proposed in LD 1451 would create a new council tasked with issuing policy recommendations, building interagency coordination, establishing mobility management hubs, and streamlining transportation funding. However, many of these goals are already being addressed through existing state efforts—most notably, through the Maine State Transit Plan, which MaineDOT is actively implementing in partnership with other state agencies and stakeholders. It should be noted that last session MaineDOT successfully supported an increase in state transit funding of \$5M annually to both stabilize current operations and to expand services.

The Maine State Transit Plan was developed collaboratively with the Public Transit Advisory Council, the Maine Transit Association, and various agency partners. It outlines a comprehensive strategy to strengthen Maine's public transit system, with priorities that closely mirror the objectives outlined in LD 1451, including:

- Improving coordination between MaineDOT and other state agencies;
- Expanding transit service where needed;
- Enhancing access to transit information for riders;
- Reducing barriers and improving ease of use for all riders;
- Developing pilot programs to support rural and underserved communities;
- Upgrading customer-facing transit facilities;