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Testimony of Meghan Russo
Maine Department of Transportation
Before the 132nd Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Neither for Nor Against

LD 622

An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Meghan Russo, and I serve as the Director of Government Affairs at the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). MaineDOT submits this testimony neither for nor against LD 622, *An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration*.

LD 622 would impose an electric vehicle registration surcharge of fee of \$250 annually. As this committee is aware the Highway Fund, which finances the maintenance and improvement of Maine's transportation infrastructure, is largely supported through fuel taxes. As more electric vehicles (EVs) enter Maine's roadways — a trend that aligns with broader environmental goals — it is important to ensure all road users contribute fairly to the system's upkeep, regardless of their vehicle's fuel type. This bill attempts to address that emerging gap by imposing an annual surcharge on EV owners.

At the same time, we note that EV adoption is still growing and remains a priority under Maine's climate and energy strategies. At this time there are roughly 19,400 electric vehicles registered in Maine. Under this proposal this would equate to about \$4.8 million.

We appreciate the efforts of the bill sponsor to address this equity issue and encourage thoughtful consideration of both the financial and environmental impacts of this policy.

Thank you.