



P.O. Box 2667  
180 Civic Center Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04338-2667

**AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION INC**

PHONE 623-3882 • FAX (207) 623-2318  
E-MAIL [info@maineautodealers.com](mailto:info@maineautodealers.com)

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

RE: LD 1659 – An Act to Raise Revenue to Fund Firefighting Equipment Purchases and Training Related to Electric Vehicle Fires Through a Fee on Electric Vehicles

Good Afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Tom Brown, President of the Maine Automobile Dealers Association, the state-wide organization of the franchised new car and truck dealers in Maine, all of which are members of MADA. MADA members sell and service new and used electric vehicles, with over 70 different models being produced by automobile manufacturers which our dealerships represent.

MADA testifies in **Opposition to Section 2 of LD 1659**. We have no issue with Section 1 of this LD. MADA members recognize the important and dangerous work which firefighters face when confronted with a vehicle fire, and support efforts to equip and train firefighters for these situations, which is the stated purpose of Section 1.

Section 2 of LD 1659 would impose a \$250 fee on the sale of new and used electric vehicles, but only on those transactions which occur at new and used motor vehicle dealerships located in Maine. What happens with EVs purchased out of state or through private sales and registered in Maine – these numerous sales would not be subject to this fee even though the vehicle is registered in Maine. Should the Committee move forward with this idea, the more inclusive approach is to impose the fee at time of registration. Fees imposed at registration would address all EV purchasing equally, generate more revenue, eliminate additional administrative issues for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and dealerships in auditing the proper collection and timely submission of the fees, and utilize an existing system of fee collection and disbursement among State agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to express MADA's **Opposition to Section 2 of LD 1659**. I would be pleased to try and answer any questions.