

Testimony of **Annika Mannix** from Waterville

**In Support of LD 1138**, An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in  
Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan

May 1, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Annika Mannix and I live in Waterville. I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1138 and I appreciate Senator Brenner and the other cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

I am a sophomore at Colby College studying environmental policy and economics. I spend my free time hiking, skiing, running—really anything that allows me to get outside and move my body. Attending school here in Maine has allowed me to take full advantage of this beautiful earth we get to call home, but it is greatly threatened by the warming climate. As a young person, I worry that my children will not be able to enjoy the long snowy winters that I cherish. I worry about the beautiful coastal towns where the fishing and tourism industries thrive which are threatened by rising sea levels. And most importantly I worry about all the communities and lives that inevitably will be harmed by climate change.

CO2 emissions from the transportation sector are the largest source of air pollution in Maine. I commuted from Waterville to Augusta several days a week during the month of January, and I often thought about how nice it would be to have reliable public transportation to decrease my carbon footprint. As someone with siblings who have severe asthma, I often think about pollutants and their impact on public health. It is time that Maine considers the impact on human health during transportation planning by aligning projects with the State's climate goals.

As a student in Waterville, I often wish it was a more walkable and bikeable city. There are some parts that are accessible by foot, but most of the city is designed for cars. I can safely walk the 2.2 miles from my dorm to our local Sunrise Bagels, but in the other direction towards Walmart and Hannafords, there are significantly fewer sidewalks. I would not feel comfortable in anything but a motorized vehicle to get to these essential businesses. Yet I see so much potential in all that Waterville and the surrounding towns have to offer, and I wish it was more accessible. In the long-term, it is important to prioritize bike lanes, more sidewalks, and reliable public transportation. With climate smart projects in mind, not only will we reduce air pollution, but we will also boost local economies, improve safety, and reduce transportation costs.

Safer and more sustainable cities are desperately needed not only in Waterville but throughout Maine. I urge you to vote **Ought to Pass** on LD 1138. Thank you for your consideration.