



www.thirdact.org/maine

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

I am here today representing Third Act Maine, a statewide group of over 1,200 Maine elders committed to protecting our climate and democracy. Our members are represented in every county in Maine, with organizational hubs in Farmington, Waterville, Belfast, Damariscotta and Portland. Third Act was founded in 2021 by the environmentalist Bill McKibbin of Vermont, and has grown into a national community of Americans over the age of sixty working to change the world for the better by transitioning to a renewable energy economy.

We are acutely aware that diesel and gasoline-powered vehicles contribute to almost half of the carbon pollution caused by our state. In addition, particulates and compounds such as naphthalene and benzene found in vehicle exhaust are a significant health threat. A recent Harvard Medical School study found that one in five deaths worldwide is caused by particles produced by fossil fuel combustion. LD 1138 will help reduce this air pollution in Maine, in turn reducing the taxes we pay for MaineCare to treat our children and elders for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

One of Third Act Maine's overarching goals is to support youth and to consider how our actions today affect the future for our children and grandchildren, and generations to come. It is vital that transportation planners take climate change into consideration and conscientiously link their planning to the revised Maine Climate Action Plan, setting targets for greenhouse gas emissions.

This bill will benefit Maine elders in a practical way in the near term as well. On average, we elders outlive our ability to drive by eight years. In practice, that means

a loss of independence, leaving us homebound and reliant on family and friends to get around. This bill will spur real solutions for public transportation options to serve Mainers, old and young. That might look like traditional public transportation options such as buses in populated areas, or maybe on demand van networks in more rural areas. We are excited that this legislation provides for exploring options for reliable, clean public transportation, a service that many of our elderly members need right now.

LD 1138 is a win-win for Maine. By reducing combustion emissions, it will make Mainers healthier (especially young children and elders), it will help reduce the harms caused by climate change, and it will improve access to public transportation and more walkable streets.

Third Act Maine urges the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1138.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Fahy', written in a cursive style.

Deborah Fahy

Environmental Priorities Coalition Representative

Third Act Maine