

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Transportation

From: Amy Eshoo, Director, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: May 1, 2025

Re: LD 1138, An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan OUGHT TO PASS

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Committee on Transportation, my name is Amy Eshoo. I live in North Yarmouth and serve as the Director of Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a coalition of sixteen grassroots organizations from across Maine united by an urgency to progress our state forward and engage in transformative action in response to the climate crisis. The time is past for the need for systemic change to respond to climate damage. We need to push hard on all fronts and in this state especially on our transportation sector.

Our coalition is supportive of proactively tracking the climate impacts associated with the transportation sector. We know the picture isn't great right now. For example, a 2021 report¹ found that roughly 76% of Mainers use a single occupancy vehicle as their primary mode of transportation, while only 0.4% of Mainers use public transit. Additionally, as it currently stands, 54% of Maine's carbon emissions stem from the transportation sector. To reach our climate action goals as a state, we must understand and diagnose the problem through hard data to help guide transportation planning in the future. We can no longer rely on single occupancy vehicles as our primary means of transportation. We need to increase our options.

As a coalition that uses the lens of equity for the work we do we reached out to coalition members and asked them how Maine's public transportation system is working for them. We heard a common story: it isn't - for a small land trust to individuals around the state. You can find these stories submitted as testimony but I will share the common themes here.

There are not enough reliable, frequent, wide ranging public bus or other transportation options available for those who either do not own a car or are unable to drive one. From a young adult with challenges who needs van service to get to work or activities, to a college student trying to get to classes, and to an organization looking to increase outdoor use of its trails for differently abled folks - none of these users is being served and therefore either have their futures foreclosed or become dependent on being driven in cars. This shouldn't be as it adds to increased carbon emissions and lessens any opportunity for us all to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

For the above-stated reasons, the MCAN coalition believes this legislation is a step in the right direction towards the future we need. We urge you to vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 1138. Thank you.

¹Cadmus, Maine Clean Transportation Roadmap, "[Market Factors Influencing Electric Vehicle Adoption in Maine](#)", GEO and GOPIF, December 2021, Accessed March 5, 2025.