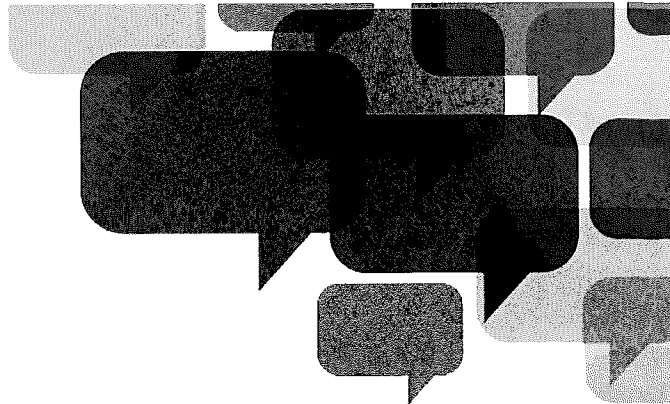




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May 6, 2025

Senator Tim Nangle, Chair  
Representative Lydia Crafts, Chair  
Members of the Transportation Committee

**RE: Testimony Regarding LD 1809, An Act to Further Stabilize Highway Fund Revenue**

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Curtis Picard, and I serve as the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. Our association represents retailers of all sizes from small, independent retailers, to a number of well-known Maine retail brands, and including a number of larger, multi-state retailers. Maine's retailers employ more than 80,000 Mainers, and our industry is one of the largest private sector employers in Maine.

I appreciate the opportunity to express our strong opposition to LD 1809, An Act to Further Stabilize Highway Fund Revenue that includes a \$0.50 delivery fee and a \$1 toll surcharge on visitors to Maine.

Maine's rural landscape means that many residents rely heavily on e-commerce to access essential goods and services. Introducing a \$0.50 delivery fee disproportionately affects these individuals, effectively penalizing them for their geographic location. This fee could discourage online purchases, leading to decreased accessibility for those who need it most. Would the fee apply only to deliveries to someone's home or would it include curbside pick up at local stores? Additionally, would the fee apply to orders placed by people from out-of-state? This would put Maine's retailers at a greater competitive disadvantage to other states.

Additionally, the proposed delivery fee may inadvertently encourage consumers to split their orders into smaller shipments under \$100 to avoid the fee. This behavior would increase the number of deliveries and packaging materials used, contradicting Maine's environmental goals to reduce packaging waste.

Tourism is a vital component of Maine's economy. Implementing a \$1 toll surcharge on visitors sends an unwelcoming message, especially to Canadian tourists, who are already facing challenges due to tariffs and international tensions. This additional cost could deter visitors,

harming local businesses that depend on tourist spending. Additionally, it is unclear if the \$1 surcharge would be assessed at each toll which would have a multiplier effect. Regardless of how it would be assessed, we believe it is a bad idea to send this message to Maine's visitors.

While we understand the need for infrastructure funding, enacting new fees on deliveries and visitors is not the way to go. We urge the committee to vote LD 1809 Ought Not to Pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE  
President and CEO