

May 3, 2021

Oppose: LD 1498, An Act to Prevent Increased Heating Fuel, Natural Gas, Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Pricing in Maine by Prohibiting Adoption of Rules Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Dear Chair Brenner, Chair Tucker, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee;

On behalf of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation (Auto Innovators), I am writing to express our opposition to LD 1498, An Act to Prevent Increased Heating Fuel, Natural Gas, Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Pricing in Maine by Prohibiting Adoption of Rules Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Auto Innovators' members are committed to the decarbonization of the transportation sector and are working diligently to expand motor vehicle offerings of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) with ranges, price points, and vehicle types to satisfy all customers' needs. There are 40 such vehicles available for consumers to purchase today, and 130 models promised by 2025.

Since its inception last year, Auto Innovators' main focus has been working with policymakers to develop constructive solutions to public policy challenges that promote sustainable mobility and benefit society in the areas of environment, energy, and motor vehicle safety. In the context of climate change, market-based mechanisms are widely understood to encourage emissions reductions in the most efficient way—especially when broadly applied.

LD 1498 could limit Maine's ability to become a part of a regional Transportation Collaborative Initiative (TCI), which many of Maine's neighboring New England states have already joined. The TCI's approach to implement a regional transportation cap-and-invest program adheres to market principles and would encourage cost-effective emissions reductions from across the transportation sector.

Specifically, there remain two dominant obstacles that continue to challenge consumer acceptance of PEVs and FCEVs – higher initial purchase prices and limitations on public recharging/refueling infrastructure. Revenues from the TCI's cap and invest structure could make significant progress on both of these real-world challenges. The TCI's proposed policy framework represents an important opportunity for participating jurisdictions to fund vital policies that complement and support the auto industry's existing efforts. We look forward to working with each individual TCI-state to develop funding priorities that address the specific needs of their state, while supporting zero emission vehicle targets, accelerating overall electric vehicle adoption, and reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuels.

TCI's cap and invest program can address previous policy shortcomings and greatly accelerate the transition to a decarbonized transportation future by funding the many complimentary policies that are needed – More purchase incentives; More public charging/fueling infrastructure; More multi-residence charging options. The TCI is a real opportunity to achieve emissions reductions while also continuing to build the market for zero emission vehicle technologies.

Auto Innovators strongly encourages Maine to consider whether joining the TCI is an appropriate way to advance the State's greenhouse gas reduction goals. For this reason, we encourage the Committee to oppose LD 1498, which would make it difficult to impossible to move forward on this exciting initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of the Auto Innovators' position. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should I be able to provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Wayne Weikel
Senior Director, State Affairs

