

Mayor Rollins, Augusta  
Mayor Casavant, Biddeford  
Mayor Cayer, Lewiston  
Mayor Snyder, Portland  
Mayor Glaser, Rockland



Mayor Doyle, Saco  
Mayor Mastraccio, Sanford  
Mayor Pride, South Portland  
Mayor Foley, Westbrook

## **Testimony in Support of**

### **LD 347, An Act To Facilitate Maine's Climate Goals by Encouraging Use of Electric Vehicles**

February 25, 2021

The Mayors' Coalition is a nonpartisan group formed in 2012, and currently includes the Mayors of nine Maine communities - Augusta, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, and Westbrook – with a combined population of nearly 250,000. The Coalition advocates for state and federal policies that recognize the important role that Maine cities play in providing vital services to Maine people across our state, and the positive impact Maine cities have on the economic strength of our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with Maine's state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

We commend Representative Grohoski for introducing this legislation as it recognizes the need to reorient our infrastructure, economy and daily lives away from fossil fuels and toward electrification. The Coalition has made addressing and preparing for climate change one of our policy priorities and plans to support a range of proposals that lead our state forward in this regard.

We are very interested in ensuring electric charging stations become more widely available throughout our communities and around the state. We are also very interested in adding electric vehicles to our municipal fleets but note that assistance with the additional costs to purchase EVs is needed. Establishing incentive rates for the installation and operation of electric vehicle charging stations would be a very welcome step as we seek to electrify our transportation sector and our municipal fleets.

This legislation would require the Public Utilities Commission to submit a proposed incentive rate schedule to promote the installation and operation of EV charging stations. This bill is a proposal, not a mandate. This is a first step in the right direction toward achieving the State's greenhouse gas emission reductions levels.

Municipalities would be happy to partner with the state as they develop incentive rate schedules. As municipalities we are taking steps on our own, but are limited in our financial capacity. For example, the City of Westbrook has four EV chargers and several hybrid police cruisers. In Rockland, they've installed several charging stations at local hotels and Air BnBs. They are also in the discovery phase of how to incentivize EVs. In the City of Portland there is a high incentive

to electrify their municipal fleets. They are also finding creative ways to partner with private businesses to promote EV charging stations at their work locations.

We all want to continue progressing as a state, but we need help. Creating incentives and expanding grant opportunities for electric vehicles and charging stations, with partners like Efficiency Maine, is a step in the right direction to achieving a more energy friendly Maine. We urge you to support this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.