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February 25, 2021

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

I am Barry Hobbins, Public Advocate. The Office of the Public Advocate (“OPA”) is here to testify in support of LD 347, “An Act To Facilitate Maine’s Climate Goals by Encouraging Use of Electric Vehicles.”

My suggestion is to incorporate the approach taken in this bill as a means to accelerate Maine’s transition to Electric Vehicles. Implementing a portion or the entire bill will act as a wake-up call to the transmission and distribution utilities and help jump start the discussion by requesting a submission to the Public Utilities Commission of a proposed incentive rate schedule to promote the installation and operation of electric charging stations.

The Public Utilities Commission is an excellent venue to begin the discussion with utilities. This proposal to create policies incentives and pilot programs to encourage a state-wide adoption roadmap to identify necessary regulatory changes needed to meet the State’s EV and transportation emissions-reduction goals.

These objectives mirror the recently released Maine Climate Counsel “four-year plan for climate action I call your attention to “Strategy A”...Embrace the Future of Transportation in Maine” located on Pages 39-42 of the recently released “Maine Climate Council’s Four-Year Plan for Climate Action.”

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 347, and will be present at the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry J. Hobbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'B'.

Barry J. Hobbins, Public Advocate