



March 10, 2021

**Testimony in Support of LD 354  
An Act To Require Motor Vehicle Inspections Every 2 Years**

Greetings members of the Committee on Transportation. I am Eliza Cress, outreach manager for the BCM, and this testimony is submitted on behalf of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. The Coalition supports LD 354, An Act To Require Motor Vehicle Inspections Every 2 Years, and recommends that the committee issue an “ought to pass” report on this bill.

As the leading state-wide organization advocating for pedestrians and people on bikes, we support this bill for the safety of vulnerable roads users while also limiting the financial burden of requiring inspections annually.

The BCM feels strongly about motorists having vehicles that are in good working condition for the safety of all road users. Functional brakes, windshield wipers, mirrors, and windshields are imperative when it comes to ensuring that drivers can see and avoid vulnerable road users like pedestrians and people on bikes. The BCM also feels that regular emissions testing is an important aspect of Maine’s efforts to reduce carbon emissions, and combat climate change.

That being said, the BCM believes that the shift from annual to biennial inspections will lessen the financial burden of annual inspections for those Mainers who already find it difficult to afford a vehicle on top of paying for housing, food, and utilities. As a rural state, many—perhaps most—Mainers are dependent on personal vehicles for transportation, and buying, insuring and maintaining a motor vehicle is already a tremendous annual expense. We feel that reducing inspections to an every other year schedule would help Mainers that have trouble keep up with the current annual inspection requirements.

Our stance on this bill is also applicable to LD 284, An Act To Provide That Inspections of New Motor Vehicles Are Valid for 2 Years. We believe that biennial inspections will preserve roadway safety while lessening the financial burden on Mainers, especially those living near poverty.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of LD 354.

On behalf of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine,

Eliza Cress  
Outreach Manager