

14 April 2021

VOTE OUGHT NOT TO PASS LD 1133

Although it may not seem like it, the climate emergency is at the forefront of LD 1133. The Governor's Climate Council Report states that the impact of the transportation sector on the climate emergency needs to be addressed, so as a state, we should be looking to passenger rails. Passenger rails are on average 3x more efficient than a car, meaning, passenger rails lower the carbon footprint of each passenger who would otherwise be using a car as transportation. Lowering the carbon footprint of individuals leads to lower greenhouse gas emissions, of which the climate emergency is driven by. The state of Maine is not immune to the climate emergency, it is a real and pressing issue we face as Mainers every single day.

As a young person who has grown up in Maine, I know how vital it is to mitigate our impact on climate change in order to have a sustainable, live-able future for people in this state. Growing up I was taught to do everything in my power to protect the environment, and to view the environment as something bigger than myself. I am tired of hearing about the negative impacts of climate change on our fisherman, forests, animals and communities. This is not going to change unless we make an effort to support legislation that centers sustainable transportation methods, which LD 1133 does not do. Instead, it would bar the 4 state-wide initiatives pertaining to rail corridors that are waiting to be presented to the legislature. In order to create a much-needed sustainable future, we need to focus on expanding and improving the passenger rails in the state, not pushing them aside. To VOTE OUGHT NOT TO PASS LD 1133 would be a vote ensuring the best future for Maine and its youth.

Once again, I am urging the vote of VOTE OUGHT NOT TO PASS LD 1133.