

Michael Guay  
Biddeford  
LD 746

To Senator Ben Chipman, Senator Tim Nangle, Senator Brad Farrin and Members of the Transportation Committee,

I am writing to you as a third-generation auto shop owner of Jim's Auto Repair Shop in Biddeford, as well as the owner of various Sticker Station locations across southern Maine which conduct annual Maine state vehicle inspections. The purpose of my testimony to the committee is to provide my perspective on LD 746, SP304 and to advocate for the continued practice of annual inspections and to support the use of an electronic system.

I was a member of a working group asked to research and report back on LD 284 titled "Resolve, to Study Maine's Motor Vehicle Inspection Program" that was completed January 2022. I'd like to highlight the report's four key points as it emphasizes the importance of the annual inspection program, and the benefits implementation of an electronic inspection program would bring. The major takeaways from the report are as follows:

- Based on a Carnegie Mellon Study published in December 2020 titled, "The impact of periodic passenger vehicle safety inspection programs on roadway fatalities: Evidence from U.S. states using panel data", as a result of the current, annual Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Program, 51 lives were saved, 2,214 fewer people were injured and there were 7,277 fewer instances of property damage due to crashes in 2020.
- With annual inspections, the vehicle fail rate is 25-30%. My professional opinion on this matter is that by increasing the length of time between inspections, the number of unsafe vehicles on the road will double.
- Preventative maintenance, like an annual inspection, provides Maine drivers with the opportunity to utilize recalls and warranties because annual inspections identify required repairs in a timely manner, saving Mainers money in the long run. In addition, an average person drives 17,000-20,000 miles per year. If Maine moves to a bi-annual inspection program, vehicles will not be inspected for upwards of 40,000 miles. With Maine winters and the wear and tear icy road conditions and snow put on a vehicle, safety is a primary concern.
- All of Maine's neighboring states, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts, utilize an electronic inspection program/system that works far more efficiently than Maine's current system. The electronic program provides valuable insight into tracking completed inspections within their respective states. An electronic system allows for consumer protection, inspection data and vehicle history, as well as documentation storage. The electronic programs standardize the process and reduces human error. Finally, inspectors can check for open recalls and can access sections of the Maine State inspection manual if there is a question on a specific part of the inspection process.

I hope this serves you well in making a decision that will best serve and protect Mainers.

Best Regards,  
Michael Guay