



# SIERRA CLUB

## MAINE CHAPTER

PO Box 3760  
Portland, ME 04104  
Phone: (207) 761-5616  
[www.sierraclub.org/maine](http://www.sierraclub.org/maine)

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Matt Cannon, Sierra Club Maine  
Date: April 4, 2025  
Re: **Testimony in Support of L.D. 1292** An Act to Strengthen the the Sensible Transportation Policy Act

---

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I write on behalf of the Sierra Club Maine Chapter, representing over 22,000 supporters and members statewide. Founded in 1892, Sierra Club is one of our nation's oldest and largest environmental organizations. We work diligently to amplify the power of our 3.8 million members nationwide as we work towards combating climate change and promoting a just and sustainable economy. To that end, we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on L.D. 1292.

The bill strengthens the Sensible Transportation Policy Act by clarifying the obligations of the Maine Turnpike Authority to comply with its provisions. The bill would formalize and codify the contributions of the Maine Turnpike Authority to achieving Maine DOT's other transportation priorities and obligations. It would require the MTA to contribute to the Highway Fund on a quarterly basis any revenues which do not meet the Policy's provisions in the subsection. The bill would also require that the MTA contribute certain funds from its reserves to bolster the Highway Fund. Nothing in this bill shall undermine the MTA's ability to maintain its credit rating, repay its bondholders, or operate the existing mainline of the Maine Turnpike at a service level similar to other limited access highways in the State, as outlined in Subsection 7 of the statute.

In a time of budget constraint and uncertainty, this bill helps provide much needed revenue in the highway fund by using toll revenues, much of which is paid by out-of-staters. Transitioning these funds away from MTA will ensure more accountability and public oversight. Maine has a wide and growing deficit in its highway fund. Meanwhile, the Maine Turnpike runs a surplus, has significant cash reserves, and has consistently borrowed and spent toll revenues on questionable expansion projects. This is despite current law, which requires serious studies of alternatives, and that the MTA contributes to the Maine DOT to achieve its other priorities.

We urge the committee to strengthen the Sensible Transportation Policy Act and pass L.D. 1292.

Sincerely,

Matt Cannon  
Sierra Club Maine Chapter  
State Conservation & Energy Director