



Maine Conservation Voters

Inform. Vote. Protect.

**Testimony in support of LD1242,
*An Act to Incentivize the Construction of Solar Carport Canopies and Solar Chargers at
Highway Picnic Areas***

April 4, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished member of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Cathy Breen. I am the Director of Government Affairs at Maine Conservation Voters (MCV), a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters that is building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I'm speaking in support of **LD1242, *An Act to Incentivize the Construction of Solar Carport Canopies and Solar Chargers at Highway Picnic Areas.***

MCV fully supports the recommendations of the Maine Climate Council in their latest document, *Maine Won't Wait, 2.0*. A big part of reaching our goals in reducing greenhouse gas emissions comes from modifying our transportation sector. According to the Climate Council, 49% of Maine's fossil fuel emissions arise from transportation.¹ We have to deploy all means available to reduce those emissions, and LD1242 provides some innovative tools to do that.

The bill does two primary things:

1. Allows the State of Maine to enter into lease agreements (at no cost) with vendors who install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at picnic areas along our highways; and
2. Implements economic incentives for parties who deploy a solar carport canopy that provides electricity to two or more EV charging stations.

It's no secret that Maine has struggled to meet our initial target numbers for EV's on our roads,² and "range anxiety" (the fear of your vehicle running out of battery power)³ is one thing that is holding us back. Making EV charging stations readily available will be important to easing drivers' minds. In addition, making solar carports more affordable will help EV drivers charge up at home. We applaud the sponsors of LD1242 for their innovative approach to this important challenge for Maine.

We encourage you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/climateplan/taking-action/actions-for-vehicles>

²

<https://mainemorningstar.com/2025/03/07/effort-to-replenish-maines-depleted-ev-incentive-program-could-also-reduce-electricity-costs/>

³ <https://chargesmartev.com/is-range-anxiety-still-a-concern/>