

Liz Trice
Portland
LD 1359

Hello,

I'm writing today to encourage you to support LD 1359, Resolve, To Direct The Department Of Transportation To Develop Practices Regarding Public Transit.

My name is Liz Trice, I've lived most of my life in Portland, and I have a masters' degree from the Muskie School in Public Policy with a focus on Community Development. I currently work in housing and land use policy.

I support LD 1359 because:

I believe the heart, soul and economy of Maine is based on our access to unspoiled natural places including forest, farm, and coastline, and our pattern of small towns where people know and trust each other. As Maine grows in population, we have to start investing our transportation dollars in systems that will preserve these things.

I want to live in a state of vibrant small towns, farms, and forests, and believe we can have it if we plan for it. We need to invest more in densifying our small towns rather than sprawling across farms and forest. We need to build more housing where infrastructure already exists, not building new roads. If our only solution is expensive large homes on large lots, we will become a state of subdivisions and highways, which will be unaffordable to most young households with roots and jobs in Maine.

Even though 50% or so of the current population of Maine gets around via private car, I don't believe that we will want the next 1 million residents to be forced to depend on car ownership. Young people growing up in our towns and cities, remote workers moving to Maine from other states, and our aging and disabled residents deserve the option to live close to where they work and choose places that have transit. Investing now in transit provides both an equitable transportation investments for our current population and provides the infrastructure that we will need as Maine's population grows.

We need to plan for a better future for Maine that upholds the values of community, equity, and preserving our rural economies.

Thank you.