



Advancing the Clean Energy Future

PO Box 583 • Rockport, ME 04856-0583
207-236-6470 • acadiacenter.org

April 27, 2025

Acadia Center testimony in Opposition to L.D. 622, “An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration.”

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee,

Acadia Center is a New England based nonprofit, with offices in Rockport, Me., that advocates for a green and affordable energy future. Acadia Center opposes L.D. 622 and urges the committee to vote ought not to pass. L.D. 622 would impose an annual \$250 “surcharge” on EV registration fees. This add-on fee could not come at a worse time, as it targets those who can least afford it, middle- and low-income rural Mainers who need a vehicle to get to work and who hope to buy an EV. The overall efficiencies of an EV, and especially lower maintenance costs, can help many Mainers spend less on transportation. Moreover, while internal combustion engines continue to contribute to climate change, with devastating storm impacts here in Maine, EVs are actively reducing carbon emissions, and helping Maine reach its ambitious climate goals. Indeed, given over 50% of Maine’s greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation, EVs are the single best hope for greenhouse gas reduction in Maine.

In addition, if the purpose of L.D. 622 is to address Maine Highway Fund deficits, EVs have not caused that deficit, and a \$250 registration fee surcharge will not address it. According to the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Maine Highway Fund has projected a deficit of approximately \$312 million dollars.

EVs https://www.maine.gov/budget/sites/maine.gov.budget/files/inline-files/State%20of%20Maine%20Revenue%20and%20Expenditure%20Projection%20FY%202024%20to%202027_0.pdf The Highway Fund has been deficient for years because its funding mechanism, a gasoline tax based on consumption, has been receiving less and less money as internal combustion vehicles became more efficient. The reform of that funding mechanism should be the focus of addressing the Highway Fund deficit.

Thank you for considering this testimony, and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Peter LaFond, Senior Advocate and Maine Program Director

plafond@acadiacenter.org

Acadia Center

Rockport, Me.