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LD 1138

Dear Transportation Committee Members:

I urge you to support clean transportation bill LD1138. Urgent action is needed to address climate change. In Maine, that means addressing transportation because the transportation sector is responsible for roughly half (49%) of all greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Further, while vehicle miles traveled declined during the Covid-19 pandemic, miles traveled now surpass pre-pandemic levels. In other words, transportation emissions are increasing not decreasing.

LD1138 includes several components. Most important, it aligns transportation policy with the state's climate action plan. The climate action plan sets greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for transportation and other sectors as a whole. LD1138 requires the Department of Environmental Protection to set separate targets for each source of greenhouse gas emissions within the transportation sector and requires the Department of Transportation to develop rules and strategies to achieve these targets. These strategies include impact assessments, which will review transportation projects that expand capacity to determine whether they are consistent with reduction targets or can be modified to achieve them.

Thank you for your consideration.