



RMI  
1850 M St NW, Suite 280  
Washington, DC 20036

**Committee:** Transportation Committee

**Testimony on:** LD 1138, “An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan”

**Position:** Informational (neither for nor against)

**Hearing Date:** May 1, 2025

Members of the Committee,

RMI is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all by leveraging market-driven solutions.

Mainers face soaring transportation expenses. According to a 2024 report from the American Automobile Association (AAA), the cost of car ownership is of \$12,297 per year per vehicle – an all-time high that does not consider that the present tariff environment may raise car costs further.

Maine is also not on track to meet its climate goals. According to the Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) 2024 Carbon Reduction Strategy, the state must further expand clean transportation choices and reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 20% to achieve climate alignment.

However, data from the US Federal Highway Administration Highway Statistics Series demonstrates that Maine VMT increased and exceeded pre-pandemic levels of travel in 2023, increasing both household operation costs and climate pollution, all while state EV adoption lags.

The enclosed results show our analysis of the benefits to Mainers if MDOT were to adopt innovative new policies and strategies to achieve its 20% per capita VMT goal by 2050. These potential benefits include:

- **\$2,402 of average household savings per year** from reduced vehicle gas, maintenance, and depreciation costs, adding up to **\$22 billion in direct cost savings** for Mainers by 2050
- 13 million metric tons of cumulative CO2e savings
- 32 fewer car crash fatalities on average per year
- 229 fewer deaths on average per year from cleaner air & increased physical activity
- 29 hours of annual time savings per resident from congestion relief

Our peer-reviewed methodology is available online at the RMI ‘Smarter MODES Calculator’ webpage for the Committee’s convenience.

Signed,

Miguel Moravec  
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