



## Protect Clean Transportation Choices for Mainers

### **Oppose: LD 1806** **An Act To Ensure** **Equity in the Funding of** **Maine's Transportation** **Infrastructure by** **Imposing an Annual Fee** **on Hybrid and Electric** **Vehicles**

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Wayne Parry

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Don't punish Mainers who want to drive efficient cars and trucks.

***The State shouldn't unfairly penalize Maine drivers for choosing fuel-efficient vehicles that reduce gasoline imports and air pollution and help Maine's economy.***

### **Our economy benefits from fuel-efficient hybrid and electric cars.**

- Maine is the most oil-dependent state in the nation. This dependence is costly for families, businesses, and our overall economy.
- Efficient cars let Mainers control their transportation expenses by reducing fuel and maintenance costs, and keep more consumer money here to invest in our local economy.
- Out-of-state interest groups with ties to oil industry groups (including Koch Industries and ALEC) are pushing bills like this in many states, trying to prevent Americans from using less gasoline because it eats into their profits.
- Mainers who drive electric-charged cars can use locally produced energy and also increase overall electricity demand, which can lower electricity grid costs and benefit all ratepayers.

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## The health of Maine people, our air, and our environment benefit from less-polluting cars.

- Pollution from cars and trucks generates the largest share of carbon pollution in Maine—about 40 percent.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2015, Mainers spent \$500 million on medical costs caused by emissions from conventional gasoline-powered vehicles.<sup>2</sup>
- Here in Maine, electric cars produce 75 percent less climate-changing pollution than conventional gas-powered vehicles, based on our current energy mix.<sup>3</sup>



## Taxes on fuel-efficient vehicles and hybrids will do almost nothing to solve Maine's transportation funding problems.

- LD 1806 would penalize Mainers for choosing fuel-efficient vehicles and would not meaningfully increase transportation funding.
- Transportation funding shortfalls have far more to do with Maine's static gas tax than electric cars and fuel-efficient hybrids, which make up only one percent of cars in Maine.
- Under LD 1806, clean-vehicle drivers would pay more than the annual gas tax contributions of conventional-vehicle drivers.<sup>4</sup>
- LD 1806 is a punitive proposal developed by ALEC, a national group that represents corporate interests, including the fossil fuel industry. ALEC wants to distract lawmakers from finding real solutions to the need for sustainable transportation funding.
- Maine should consider sustainable, fair, and comprehensive funding mechanisms to increase revenue for transportation sector investments and support citizens' access to more-efficient and less-polluting transportation. This bill fails to accomplish any of those objectives.

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**Natural Resources Council of Maine**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.maine.gov/dep/sustainability/climate/reducing-impacts.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.lung.org/local-content/california/documents/2016zeroemissions.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://2030.acadiacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Acadia-Center-EnergyVision-2030-Transportation.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Maine's current gas tax is \$0.300 per gallon. Given conventional vehicle efficiency data from the Energy Information Administration and an average annual mileage of 12,000,