



## Protect Clean Transportation Choices for Mainers

LD 1806 will tax efficient cars and trucks and punish Mainers who want to spend less on fuel

***We all benefit from less-polluting cars and trucks – the air is cleaner, our health is better, and we're one step closer to energy independence***

### **Maine drivers shouldn't be taxed for choosing fuel-efficient vehicles that reduce gasoline imports and air pollution while helping Maine's economy**

- Maine is the most oil dependent state in the nation. This dependence is costly for families, businesses, and our overall economy.
- Pollution from cars and trucks generates the largest share of carbon pollution in Maine - about 40%.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2015, Mainers spent \$500 million on medical costs caused by emissions from conventional gas-powered vehicles.<sup>2</sup>
- LD 1806 taxes efficient cars that let Mainers control their transportation expenses by reducing fuel and maintenance costs; use locally-produced energy; and keep more consumer money here to invest in our local economy.
- Out-of-state interest groups with ties to the oil industry are pushing bills like this that undermine fuel-efficient vehicles in many states, trying to prevent Americans from using less gasoline.



### **Our health, our economy, and our environment benefit from fuel-efficient hybrid and electric cars**

- Mainers who drive electric-charged cars make significant contributions to the state budget in sales and excise taxes due to the higher purchase price of these cars.
- Electric vehicle charging can lower electricity grid costs and benefit all ratepayers.
- Here in Maine, electric cars produce 75% less climate changing pollution than conventional gas-powered vehicles, based on our current energy mix.<sup>3</sup>

### **LD 1806 does almost nothing to solve Maine's transportation funding problems**

- 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 1% of cars in Maine.
- LD 1806 is a punitive proposal, designed to protect oil industry interests and distract lawmakers from 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. LD 1806 fails to accomplish any of those objectives.

### **Reject new taxes on fuel-efficient vehicles because they will:**

- Penalize Mainers for choosing fuel-efficient vehicles, without meaningfully increasing transportation funding.
- Result in clean vehicle drivers paying more than the annual gas tax contributions of conventional vehicle drivers.

## **Reject LD 1806: Preserve Clean Transportation Choices**

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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>

The logo for the Environmental Priorities Coalition features the text "Environmental Priorities Coalition" in white on a blue background. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of three green mountains of varying heights, with a light blue wave-like shape at the base representing water.

**Environmental  
Priorities  
Coalition**

## **Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition**

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

***We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive***

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	MidCoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	

