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Testimony by Nancy for GrowSmart Maine
in support of LD 1579 "An Act To Transition State and Local Motor
Vehicle Fleets to 100 Percent Zero-emission Vehicles"

May 4, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, I am Nancy Smith, and I live in Monmouth. I am Executive Director for GrowSmart Maine, a statewide organization devoted to building lasting prosperity while protecting the quality of life that defines Maine. We support policies, programs and projects that value our unique built and natural places while supporting long term economic opportunity. Our support for LD 1579 comes from this perspective.

This bill provides a measurable timeline to transition state, county, and municipal owned motor vehicles toward established zero-emission vehicle goals. There are two strategic aspects of this bill that helped earn our support. First, inclusion of the caveat "to the extent practicable" acknowledges and addresses the learning curve and market forces that will impact this important process. Secondly, the formation of an inter-agency working group to develop a plan for these transitions is a no-nonsense practical step that will result in significant climate action through shared resources and could facilitate coordinated responses.

I am sure committee members have received much testimony on this bill and others regarding the urgency for action to mitigate the numerous ways climate change risks damage to Maine's economy, community, and environment. We agree wholeheartedly with that charge. While we also must explore the opportunities for Maine that come with addressing climate change, immediate and practical steps such as those outlined in this bill will move Maine towards our goals in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We urge the committee to support this proposal.

I appreciate the chance to offer our perspective on this bill.

Best,



Nancy E Smith