The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 1062, “Resolve, to Expand the Availability of Light-duty Zero Emission Vehicle Supply Equipment.”

This bill would require the State’s Beneficiary Mitigation Plan pursuant to the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Agreement to include a proposal to allocate 15% of the funds received for light-duty, zero-emission vehicle supply equipment. It also requires that a portion of these funds be disbursed through a grant program for such light-duty, zero-emission vehicle supply equipment, and it includes details on certain conditions that should be given preference for such grants.

The State’s Beneficiary Mitigation Plan is now being developed under the lead of the Maine Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Governor’s Energy Office. In developing this Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, the agencies will undertake a review of a variety of possible mitigation approaches, including consideration of zero-emission vehicle supply equipment. L.D. 1062 seeks, instead, to predetermine details of the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan without evaluation, agency review, cost analysis or opportunity for full public comment as required by the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Agreement.

To allow the preconceived determinations included in L.D. 1062 to circumvent the careful development of the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, which will be informed by expert agencies and public comment, would be poor public policy.

For this reason, I return L.D. 1062 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor