



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

February 24, 2021

Senator Joe Baldacci, Chair
Representative Ann Matlock, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Baldacci and Representative Matlock,

I write in regards to LD 158, *An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions*, which seeks to eliminate several inactive boards including the Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Bridge Authority.

The Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Bridge Authority was established through legislation in 1937 during the 88th Legislature. Its purpose has been to serve as a policy link between our two states while we discuss matters relating to the bridges that link us. When it was first established the "high-level" bridge, carrying I-95 between Maine and New Hampshire, did not exist. The language of the law refers to the "present wooden pile bridge serving as the sole facility for railroad and passenger traffic over and across the Piscataqua River", what a long way we have come!

While we are currently performing preservation work to the high-level bridge and at some point, like with all spans, discussions concerning this structure will need to turn towards replacement, the State of New Hampshire has repealed their law pertaining to this authority. It is for this reason we would ask that the committee to move forward with the section of LD 158 that would eliminate the Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Board Authority.

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to ask me any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meghan Russo".

Meghan Russo
Manager of Legislative and Constituent Services, MaineDOT