

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee
on My name is Don Kleiner and I live in Union.

I'm a working Guide and Maine Outdoors (my company) has been in existence for 37 years offering Outdoor experiences in the mid coast specializing in families and beginners. I offer fishing on fresh and saltwater; recently retired from offering short canoe trips and upland bird hunting over trained dogs (for the last 20 years at Libby camps in T8R9).

I am asking you to oppose LD 1141, An Act to Improve Access and System Preservation by Providing Shoulders and Bicycle Lanes on State Roadways Leading to State Parks and Other Significant Destinations as written. While I support the addition of bike lanes wherever possible. Let me explain I spend much of my summer towing a boat trailer to one body of water or another. My trailer is wide and fills most of the lane on a small rural road. When there is a bike on one of those roads given the space I am now required to allow for a bicycle and the narrowness of the road, my travel goes at the speed of a bicycle. Sometimes that is much slower than I would like to go. Seems to me that allowing more room for those bicycles would help us all in terms of ease of travel and safety.

What I must oppose though is using the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund as a funding source. I have been in the outdoor recreation business for a very long time and am here to report that only recently has the fund been used to promote businesses like mine.

Allow me to explain; the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund is a dedicated account that gets funding from 5% of the meals and lodging taxes collected; the other 95% goes to the General Fund. Small businesses like mine depend on the state carrying much of the marketing or our state to others across the country. Using a portion of that funding for a capital expense would impact not only me but many others like me with small businesses that depend on folks interested in spending time outdoors in our state.

I understand that there will be an amendment proposed that will change the funding source making it a much better initiative in my opinion.

Thank you for considering my opinion.