

Timothy M. Folster, PE

77 Sewall Drive

Old Town, Maine

Honorable Senator Peggy Rotundo, Chair

Honorable Representative Melanie Sachs, Chair

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Fiscal Affairs

131st Maine Legislature

RE: Support of LD 367

Ms. Rotundo and Ms. Sachs:

I am writing today in support of LD 367 – the Transportation Bond. The transportation infrastructure in the State has faced a structural deficit in funding over the past many years. This has led to an unmet funding need in excess of \$265 to \$330 million per year. A prime example of this is the Llewellyn Estes bridges in my hometown of Old Town, where I serve on the City Council. The 2 adjacent bridges serve 18,000 vehicles a day and are currently posted to a 30 Ton weight limit. This has caused the detouring of any vehicle over this weight to alternate routes, causing increased fuel usage and longer trip times for the main wood fiber supply route in eastern and central Maine.

The Department of Transportation is currently seeking additional Federal funding to allow the replacement of these bridges, which were bid last year and came in at twice the estimated costs, leading to rejection of the bids from the 2 leading bridge builders in the State. These bridges should have been replaced years ago, but were not because, one assumes, lack of funding.

In closing, I support LD 367 and any additional efforts to close the unmet funding needs of the transportation infrastructure in the State. Transportation bonds have passed overwhelmingly when put to the voters. Let's continue to allow the citizens of the State to decide where they want their tax revenue spent.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Folster, PE

Retired