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**Testimony for LD 367 – An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation**

**Public Hearing of Legislature’s Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on April 27, 2023.**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Esteemed Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Casey Tuttle, Division Manager of Liquid Asphalt at Eurovia Atlantic Coast, LLC dba COPIAM Asphalt Solutions. COPIAM is a new Asphalt Terminal located in Hermon, and it employs 6 year round employees. We are submitting this testimony in support of passing LD 367.

As part of Eurovia Atlantic Coast, COPIAM supplies liquid asphalt products to our local Northeast Paving operations. Our operations comprise of more than 350 employees, most of them supported by local Unions and reside in many of Maine’s rural towns. Our main goal as Eurovia Atlantic Coast is to support the Maine DOT and our local governments in delivering high quality, lasting infrastructure projects to the taxpayers of this great state.

In partnership with Maine DOT, this Transportation Bond can assist all local governments - counties, cities, and municipalities in maintaining and improving the roads under their jurisdiction. This partnership will allow a match on local programs administered by Maine DOT and give the local governments the bond funds needed to support their programs. Local governments are using all the tools at their disposal, but continue to fall behind in maintaining safe, quality roadways. With assistance from the LD 367 bonds, which leverage additional federal funds, many more projects can be completed, allowing state and local governments to address a backlog of infrastructure needs.

In addition to local government support, LD 367 also allocates a large portion of the \$100m for highways and bridges. According to TRIP, a national transportation research non-profit in DC, found that 15% of Maine’s rural bridges are in deficient condition, ranking Maine’s rural bridges among the worst in the nation. These bond funds can be used to address some of these deteriorating assets and give the hard-working personnel of the state something to be proud of.

Finally, the State of Maine’s industrial pedigree relies heavily on a sound transportation system. Our infrastructure backbone is built on supporting tourism, forestry, agriculture, manufacturing, and marine operations. The hard-working taxpayers of Maine need good, solid roadways to travel on to support their everyday lives. These funds will have a trickle-down effect on every business in the state. As a company and as employees of this State, we heavily support the passing of LD 367 and hope we can continue to have support for bond funds for many years to come.

Sincerely,

  
Casey Tuttle

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