

**TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY OUELLETTE
IN SUPPORT:**

**Transportation Bond
LD 367**

**Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
131st Maine Legislature**

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. My name is Tim Ouellette, I live in Scarborough, and I am one of the owners of CPM Constructors, a bridge and heavy construction company based in Freeport. In the past I served as the 2015 Board President for AGC Maine, an association representing over 250 construction firms and thousands of construction workers across Maine, and currently still serve on the association's board. I am submitting my testimony in support of this bond.

Without this proposed bonding, the Department of Transportation's program for maintaining Maine's bridges, roads, rail systems and port facilities is insufficient to address the infrastructure needs of the state.

CPM Constructors currently employs over 100 Maine people on transportation and multimodal projects across the state. These working people are always concerned about their employment future, and knowing there is a bond available to provide construction jobs for the next few years gives them the drive and motivation to stay in Maine, pay taxes and contribute to our state.

Additionally, the construction industry is short of skilled workers in the trades, and short of engineers to plan and oversee much-needed construction work. Young people considering the skilled trades or engineering careers will see a commitment from us all to invest in the roads and bridges we use every day. This will keep their interest alive in such a career choice, and hopefully keep them in Maine.

To keep Maine's infrastructure strong and maintain a skilled and capable taxpaying workforce, I encourage you to support LD 367. Thank you for your time.