

Margaret Cardoza
Portland
LD 928

Dear Chairs and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

I oppose LD 928. Your committee has a commission for Discontinued roads and this bill has not been reviewed by your commission nor submitted by them.

The issue of obstructions for privateways with public easement as well as discontinued roads is a very serious issue. I request that you refer this bill to the commission and have it amended to include private ways with public easements.

I can not express how serious the problem of obstructions on ANY public easement, not just discontinued roads is a major problem. Currently Windham has many roads that have owners obstructing privateways. The police will NOT enforce nor the town or counties demand the owners remove their obstructions from privateways let alone discontinued roads. The police will demand vehicles be removed that obstruct a public easement due to fire and safety requirements but not fences, boulders, plants or buildings in the right of way of a public easement for privateways.

The amount of court cases are overwhelmingly expensive and burdensome to property owners, let alone the safety, protection and access to privately owned properties. On our roads in Windham (most are year round residents and some are seasonal owners), we have had multiple emergencies, deaths, house/camp fires in ANY season that those who block the roads refuse to remove their obstructions and has been very dangerous. Plus worst of these issues is the fights between neighbors with an owner encroaching onto another owners property refusing to remove their obstructions. Currently, this bill ought not to pass as it provides NO service to tax payers of properties on privateways. Please refer this bill to the abandoned and discontinued Roads commission. Thank you.