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LD 1020

My name is Derek Pelletier, I am a father of two children, and I live in Portland with my family. I am writing to urge you to support LD1020.

At the heart of the issue is the antiquated belief that rush hour congestion can simply be addressed by building more highways. We don't need to travel far from Maine to see that all this approach does is induce demand for more highways. There is no road capacity solution to this issue. The real solution requires getting people out of their cars by promoting more jobs and activities near where people live, more homes near jobs and activities, and a range of good options people can choose to get there. That's it. The Gorham Connector is not it.

By passing LD1020, all parties can move on from this failed proposal and get to work addressing the congestion issues in South Gorham and North Scarborough on the roads we already have. We do not need another 18-22 months of studying the problem to know that rush hour traffic backs up at antiquated traffic signals and poorly designed intersections. Doing nothing for 30 years while dreaming of a highway was not a strategy to address a problem.

Let's see what of the many alternatives we can advance right now, which may significantly ease the problem for a fraction of the cost, and without destroying the community, bulldozing homes, and ruining Smiling Hill Farm in the meantime.

Thank you all for your service on our behalf.