

Larz von Huene
Portland
LD 1020

Testimony of Larz von Huene
In Support of LD 1020

April 3, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

My name is Larz von Huene, I live in Portland, ME, and I am writing as someone who works on trails in the area, and one who dreams of a Maine that doesn't rely so heavily on cars.

I support LD 1020 because:

- The MTA's own studies said a highway would make a tiny difference in commute times, perhaps 4 minutes on average. Like many projects expanding vehicle infrastructure, it does not address the core need - to reduce the number of single passenger vehicles. Public transit, carpooling programs, and bike/multi-use trails will all decrease the density of cars on the road, saving people time and promoting health and wellness.

- There's no route for this highway that would not cut through Smiling Hill Farm, a rare surviving local dairy farm, one of the oldest family-owned small businesses in the country and a community staple. Is this worth a likely temporary 4-minute reduction in commute?

- Scarborough and Westbrook have said they don't want a highway, that it 'does not align with their values.'

I am willing to assist the committee in any way that is helpful. Thank you.

Larz von Huene
vonhuenecarina@gmail.com