

Testimony of Simon Thompson
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 Simon Thompson, I live in Portland, and I am here to testify in support of LD 1020.

I principally support LD 1020 because I am a **concerned taxpayer** and I am blown away by the costs associated with this proposed highway, with so few resulting benefits. In an uncertain economic time, I would be deeply concerned by a state agency spending over \$65 million per mile of construction of a highway to save drivers only a couple minutes off their commute, at most. Regardless of the proposed funding mechanism, this is fiscally reckless and will hurt Mainers across the state.

I understand that MTA has said they are stepping back from this project, but I am very concerned that it will come back around in some form given how long this has been a priority of theirs. It is critical that the Legislature show leadership and pass LD 1020 so that taxpayers aren't eventually left on the hook for this reckless proposal, whether it's this year, next year, or five years from now,

Thank you.

Simon Thompson
Portland, Maine