

Kimberly Simmons  
Portland  
LD 1020

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and Honorable Members of the  
Transportation Committee:

I support LD 1020 and hope you will too.

I first learned about the proposed "Gorham connector" a few years ago, at a time when I was becoming more concerned about climate change and how we might take action to mitigate more damage for the future. The idea that we would work to increase cars on the roads, while spending money Maine doesn't have, while destroying important land, waters and even taking Smiling Hill Farms land just seemed outlandish. Over the past couple of years, it has become clear that proponents of the Gorham connector are largely those who will make money from it, and that just cannot be the reason we commit so many resources - human, ecological and financial - to a public project. "Because it was considered a good idea at first" is also not a suitable rationale. We must change as we change!

I hope this bill has bipartisan support, given the GOP interest in tightening our budget-belt and the clear way that raising revenue through tolls is simply another form of tax. It is the fiscally responsible thing to do!

Thank you, Kim