



April 2, 2025

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation  
132<sup>nd</sup> Maine Legislature, First Special Session  
Maine State House  
Augusta, Me 04333

**RE: LD1020- An Act Repealing the Laws of the Gorham Connector**

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

Founded in 1964, Greater Portland Landmarks is a non-profit advocacy organization that works toward the preservation and revitalization of greater Portland's built environment. Our goal is to save greater Portland's historic places through preservation and adaptive use while promoting creative new architecture that enhances historic neighborhoods. **We appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of LD1010- An Act Repealing the Laws of the Gorham Connector.**

As proposed, the highway connecting South Portland and Gorham will dissect one of the country's oldest family-run farms: Smiling Hill Farm in Westbrook/Scarborough. Found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, this farm was established c. 1720 by Colonel Thomas Westbrook and his nephew Nathaniel Knight. Many of the structures are over a century old, and the farm functions much as it has for generations. The highway would decimate the hay fields that support the dairy functions of the farm and would likely destroy the remaining operations by default. Maine's historic farms and open spaces are increasingly threatened by sprawl and unimaginative transportation solutions like the Gorham Connector.

Greater Portland Landmarks supports this bill and strongly urges all involved to collaborate towards more sensible traffic solutions that support our irreplaceable historic resources instead of destroying them. We are happy to partner towards that end.

Sincerely,

Kate Lemos McHale  
Executive Director