

Joseph Fagnant
RSU 29, Houlton
LD 312

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee,

I am in support of passing LD 312 (Representative Swallow, Senator Stewart), An Act Regarding the Rates of Speed at Which School Buses Travel. As the superintendent in RSU 29, we often see safety issues around our buses as we are at the crossroads of major roads such as US Highway 1 and US Rt 2. These roads have posted speed limits above the 45 mph limitations currently in law.

Our drivers should be able to travel the speed limit as posted in order to follow the flow of traffic, and be able to move at the same rate of speed as other large vehicles, including trailer trucks and log trucks. By limiting our buses to 45 mph, there is cause for concern as vehicles pile up behind a slower vehicle. This also creates impatient drivers, with the potential for passing erratically, or passing when a bus comes to a stop to deliver students, passing while the stop arm is deployed.

This bill does allow for following the posted speed limit. Please support LD 312, and I think you for your time and attention to this matter.