



Norridgewock Select Board

April 22, 2025

State of Maine Legislature
Transportation Committee
Senate Chair Tim Nangle
House Chair Lydia Crafts
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1531: An Act to Better Protect Animal-drawn Vehicles and Motorists on Public Roadways

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee,

Please accept the following as written testimony in support of LD 1531, *An Act to Better Protect Animal-drawn Vehicles and Motorists on Public Roadways*. This legislation establishes reasonable and necessary expectations for animal-drawn vehicles, which are becoming increasingly common on Maine's roads. The proposed requirements are designed to enhance safety for all roadway users, particularly those traveling in animal-drawn vehicles.

In southern Somerset County, we are seeing a steady influx of families relocating from Pennsylvania and Ohio, many of whom rely solely on animal-drawn vehicles for transportation. These individuals are kind, hard-working, and deeply rooted in faith and tradition. Their choice of transportation reflects a noble way of life, one that deserves respect. However, the absence of adequate safety features on these vehicles can pose serious risks—not only to their occupants but also to other motorists sharing the roadway.

LD 1531 offers sensible, balanced measures to improve roadway safety in rural Maine. For that reason, the Norridgewock Select Board supports the bill as presented.

Respectfully,

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
For the Norridgewock Select Board