

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bill Thompson and I would like to voice my support for LD 1457: Work Zone Speed Safety Camera Pilot Program. Before I speak regarding my reasons for supporting this program, I'd like to offer some background on myself.

I am 64 years old and retired from the Maine Turnpike Authority in 2019 with 35 years in the Highway Maintenance Division. Twenty of those years in a supervisory capacity. During my employment with the authority, I was involved in almost every aspect of work zone operation, from designing, planning, implementing, setting up and removing various work zone scenarios. Throughout this process, we were always searching for new, acceptable, proven ways to protect our employees and the traveling public as well. This bill will go a long way in helping the folks doing the job that I used to do, accomplish the goal that we had in work safety: everyone goes home at the end of the day. Unfortunately, this isn't always the case. I personally have been involved in several work zone incidents in my time at the Pike. Some resulted in cones and barriers being hit. Some with signage and vehicles being struck, and unfortunately, even individual workers being struck and killed. Almost all were caused by the operator of a vehicle going through a work zone in an unsafe manner, with speed being a factor in most of them. This bill would help in creating another tool that could be used to help reduce the frequency of these incidents.

After reading the bill, I can see that it was crafted with both the safety and wellbeing of both the workers and the public in mind. It's not about punishing anyone. It's about educating folks. Some drivers are not all that familiar with all that goes on in a work zone. The numbers tell the story. The practices that this bill would help provide will help protect workers and travelers achieve the *ultimate goal*: that we all go home at the end of the day.

Thank you,

Bill Thompson