

Andrew Frederick
Owls Head
LD 1756

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

My name is Andrew Frederick, of Owls Head Maine- I founded and run a thriving Maine-based business, and am a life-long resident of Maine. Please accept this testimony in support of LD 1756, "An Act to Establish a Statewide Transportation Project Selection Prioritization Process" and encourage you to consider the following in your evaluation:

It is not difficult to recognize that we have a lop-sided transport system here in the state. We have a spread-out population with low density, and thus have historically relied on one reliable way for Mainers to get around, the automobile! And while auto transport is incredibly useful, we have over-prioritized this one method of transport without fully considering its costs, and it would be useful for future infrastructure in Maine to fully consider the entire picture when deciding on what solution to implement. There are lots of incredible solutions, previously unrecognized environmental impacts of auto-based infrastructure, and a genuine desire for folks in Maine to have more walkable, liveable built environments that don't require hopping in a car for every possible errand. We might still find that an overwhelming majority of projects do prioritize auto-based transport, and that's okay! But we still should weigh the costs and benefits, because it appears that we haven't done so historically. I appreciate your consideration on this matter, and look forward to a bright future for Maine's transportation sector.