

Liz Trice
Portland
LD 1756

April 30, 2025

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

My name is Liz Trice, I've lived most of my life in Portland, and I have a masters' degree from the Muskie School in Public Policy with a focus on Community Development. I currently work in housing policy.

I support LD 1756 because:

I believe the heart, soul and economy of Maine is based on our access to unspoiled natural places including forest, farm, and coastline. As Maine grows in population, we have to start investing our transportation dollars in systems that will preserve these things.

When we invest in highways to let people get faster from rural areas to urban, we degrade the independence of rural towns, we ruin the landscapes of farms and forest, we shift costs in inequitable ways, and we isolate people from our beloved small towns.

I want to live in a state of vibrant small towns, farms, and forests, and believe we can have that if we plan for it. We need to invest more in densifying our small towns rather than sprawling across farms and forest. We need to build more housing where infrastructure already exists, not building new roads. If our only solution is expensive large homes on large lots, we will become a state of subdivisions and highways.

LD 1756 would create a transparent method for scoring potential transportation projects based on key factors like how they:

Improve safety

Reduce congestion

Increase accessibility

Contribute to economic development

Reduce impacts on the environment

We need to take Maine's transportation dollars and funding back into the hands of Maine people and our established governance processes. Highways are no longer the (sole) answer. We need to plan for a better future for Maine that upholds the values of community, equity, and preserving our rural economies.

I am willing to assist the committee in any way that is helpful. Thank you.

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