

*131st Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 24*

*Senator Eloise Vitelli*  
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*Testimony of Senator Eloise Vitelli introducing*  
**LD 461, An Act Regarding Private Roads**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*  
**March 28, 2023**

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Eloise Vitelli, and I proudly represent Senate District 24, which includes all of Sagadahoc County and Dresden. Today I am pleased present LD 461, “An Act Regarding Private Roads.”

Last year, the Maine Alliance for Road Associations asked me to submit the legislation before you today. Since then, MARA provided me with additional draft language and comments explaining that language. I was considering proposing an amendment based on that document; but, between submitting the bill and receiving MARA’s feedback, I have learned that this Committee has already been working diligently on the issues this bill seeks to resolve.

In the 130th Legislature, the State and Local Government Committee voted to create the Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission. In February 2023, the Commission presented its first report to the Committee. It’s my understanding that the Commission’s report addresses matters that are related to some of the changes included in my original bill draft as well as the additional draft language and comments that MARA sent to me. In fact, this Committee has already asked the Commission to review LD 461 and provide feedback to the Committee either during the public hearing or the work session for the bill. I would like to hear the feedback and listen to the related discussions. I’d also request that the Committee review MARA’s letter, which I believe has already been circulated to the Committee and Interested Parties, while you all continue to engage with these issues.

I will add that I have heard from a number of my constituents over the past few years who live on private roads and who are looking for a clearer understanding of how their roads are managed. I am in hopes that the above mentioned conversations can help provide greater clarity and guidance to those who live on these roads along with their neighbors.

I thank you for your work on these matters, and I thank you for your time. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloise".

**Eloise Vitelli**

Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 24  
*Sagadahoc County and Dresden*