



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

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**Testimony of Nate Moulton
Maine Department of Transportation
Before the 131st Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

In Opposition

LD 1170, Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Nate Moulton, Transportation Planning Division Director at MaineDOT. MaineDOT is opposed to LD 1170, *Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters*.

This resolve directs MaineDOT, in coordination with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA), to conduct a study that evaluates improvements to the passenger rail service between Brunswick and Boston. This resolve is unnecessary and could negatively impact NNEPRA's planning processes and projects that are underway.

This legislation is duplicative, as NNEPRA's Service Development Plan for the Downeaster already reviews and outlines the requirements of the study set forth in LD 1170. These include train frequencies, speeds, trip times, existing and proposed station locations, among other priorities. The Service Development Plan outlines the priorities for passenger rail service and expansion in the state. NNEPRA's current Service Development Plan was completed in 2016 and NNEPRA plans to begin an update to this plan later this year to align with MaineDOT's recently updated State Rail Plan.

It is for this reason that MaineDOT opposes this legislation and we urge the committee to vote ought not to pass on LD 1170.

Thank you.