



May 2, 2023

Testimony of Erin Courtney, Maine Turnpike Authority
Before the 131st Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

In Opposition of LD 1640
An Act to Require Industry Training and Certification for Persons Undertaking Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation for Bridges

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and distinguished members of Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Erin Courtney and I am the Public Outreach Manager and Legislative Liaison for the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA). Maine Turnpike Authority respectfully opposes LD 1640.

LD 1640 would require MaineDOT to adopt rules concerning corrosion prevention and mitigation methods “for bridges wholly or partly under the control of the State.” It is unclear if the bill as written would apply to bridges owned and maintained by the Authority. However, the bill appears to be unnecessary from our perspective.

Already within our contract specifications, it is a requirement that the contractor’s quality control (QC) personnel are NACE certified (National Association of Corrosion Engineers) and SSPC certified (The Society for Protective Coatings). Before paint can be removed from any bridge, the contractor must submit a QC plan to the Authority for review at least 21 days in advance. It includes names of on-site representatives, including the NACE/SSPC certified inspector, who will be responsible for the inspection and acceptance of the contractor’s work, the definition of hold points from pre-surface preparation inspection to final inspection, the format and submittal process for daily work reports and the development of a Job Control Record (JCR) that systematically organizes all reports, tests and results.

In addition to the QC plan, a number of other plans are also currently required. These include:

- 1) a Surface Preparation/Coating plan that identifies the methods of protection or work isolation procedures that will be followed to protect surrounding structures from exposure to surface prep and paint debris;
- 2) a Containment Plan that includes detailed drawings and structural analysis stamped by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Maine. Surface preparation cannot begin until the work has been approved and field verified. Containment must meet all OSHA, federal and state regulations;
- 3) an Environmental Protection Plan that establishes programs for the monitoring activities that will be undertaken on the project including: regulated area monitoring and maintenance, high volume

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ambient air monitoring, ground soil evaluations, remediation of ground soil, final cleaning evaluations, among other items.

If the contractor's QC personnel do not follow and enforce approved Quality Control Plan, the Resident on the project can require the contractor to retain the services of an independent third-party certified NACE/SSPC BCI inspector for the remainder of the project. To mandate an independent third-party from the onset is unnecessary and would only increase costs on work that we already have very clear standards and specifications for.

We respectfully urge the committee to vote ought not to pass on LD 1640.