



Testimony of Sean Paulhus, Maine Turnpike Authority

Before the 132nd Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources

In Opposition of LD 646

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unregulated Storm Water Pollution

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; my name is Sean Paulhus and I am the Government Relations and Planning Manager for the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA). The MTA respectfully opposes LD 646 "Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unregulated Storm Water Pollution."

First, we would like to clarify that stormwater is currently regulated under existing Federal, State, and municipal programs. Also, we believe this legislation is unnecessary due to current and ongoing work by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) to revise and update Maine Stormwater Management Law Chapter 500 rules, which regulates stormwater from development projects.

Beginning in December 2023 and continuing through 2024, Maine DEP initiated a Stakeholder Engagement Process for a major revision of the Chapter 500 Rules. This process included the creation of a Steering Committee and various sub-committees, and several public meetings with opportunity for stakeholder input. MTA has been actively engaged with this process through holding a seat on the Technical Committee and through submitting comments as a stakeholder. Separately, the State's General Permits for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) are scheduled for reissuance in July 2027, which will require additional Maine DEP review, stakeholder input, and public comment, likely beginning in 2026.

An evaluation of Maine's stormwater management regulations as proposed by LD 646 would be premature and duplicative given these pending evaluations of stormwater management. Any such review should not occur until new Chapter 500 rules are finalized, supporting technical and design manuals are updated, and MS4 Permits are reissued.

Rather than duplicate DEP's ongoing efforts to strengthen stormwater management in Maine, we feel there could be value in studying potential funding opportunities for stormwater pollution prevention.

MTA asks you to oppose LD 646 and allow these ongoing stormwater regulatory evaluations and revisions to be completed.

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