



**State of Maine Judicial Branch  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
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**Judicial Branch Testimony Against LD 739, An Act to Reimburse the City of  
Ellsworth for an Access Road to a New Court Facility in Hancock County**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Barbara Cardone, and I am the Director of Legal Affairs and Public Relations for the Maine Judicial Branch. I would like to provide the following testimony against this bill.

This bill is erroneously drafted in putting the expense for the reimbursement under the Judicial Branch budget. The bill is intended to ask the State to reimburse the City of Ellsworth for the cost of building a **public road** that will lead to areas of future development. One building to be developed on that roadway may be a new courthouse, if the City and the Judicial Branch reach agreement on other issues. This is NOT a private roadway leading to a courthouse.

To be clear, the Judicial Branch has no objection to the State reimbursing the City, but the reimbursement should be categorized under a different department in the budget (perhaps the Department of Transportation?) and not under the Judicial Branch.

Given the circumstances behind this bill, the Judiciary Committee may wish to reference it to a committee with jurisdiction over public roads, or perhaps to a committee that deals with issues between state and local government. The Judicial Branch also respectfully requests that the cost for the reimbursement be reassigned to the appropriate department's budget.

Thank you for your consideration.