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Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of
**LD 1292: An Act to Codify the Maine Turnpike Authority's Contributions to
the Highway Fund**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I proudly represent House District 15, which includes the rural coastal and island communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Swan's Island, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven, Brooklin, Tremont, and Southwest Harbor.

I'm testifying today in support of LD 1292 because this bill is about fairness and equity in how we invest in Maine's transportation infrastructure. Communities like mine are far from the Maine Turnpike, but that distance doesn't make our needs any less urgent—or our connection to the state's highway system any less real.

Every year, thousands of people travel the Turnpike to visit our coastal towns. They come to work, fish, vacation and visit family. They drive across our bridges, travel on our aging causeways and depend on our ferry system to reach the islands. Yet, despite the steady increase in traffic and pressure on our infrastructure, we often feel like we're fighting for scraps when it comes to transportation funding.

This bill ensures that when the Maine Turnpike Authority has fulfilled its own obligations, any remaining funds help meet the broader needs of the state—including ours. It's a small but meaningful step toward equity. It recognizes that every community—whether connected by highways or by ferries—deserves reliable, safe and resilient infrastructure.

I respectfully urge the committee to support LD 1292. Let's make sure that transportation funding reflects the full geography and diversity of Maine, not just where the toll booths are located.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I encourage the committee to support this bill.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven