

Senator Nagle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint standing committee on transportation. I am here today in support of LD312 An act Regarding the Rates of Speed at which school buses travel.

My name is Steven Henderson I am a current bus driver for Applied Technology Region 2 out of Houlton. I wish to first of all thank the committee for allowing me to speak today regarding LD312 law.

The law as it stands right now only allowing the bus driver to drive at 45 MPH is making the road less safe for everyone on the road with them.

US Rte 1, 2 , 2A and Rte 11 all have speed limits above 45 MPH. The road North of Houlton to Caribou is a much better highway because of the many opportunities for passing. But the road to Danforth and beyond has no such opportunities for that scenario. If the buses are allowed to drive at the posted speed limit this would make it much safer for everyone involved. There are probably 30 loads a day headed down and back each day to Danforth and beyond. And those log and chip trucks are pushing the bus to get out of the way. I do all I can do to let them by. We have a system of blinkers in areas that traffic is not coming and they have the chance to get by and back in the lane again.

The end result of the passing of LD312 will make all roads safer and could help with traffic being held up. Bus drivers take extensive training to be able to get students where they are supposed to be safely and this will be one more benefit to help them do just that.

This of course would have no effect on roads that are posted less then the 45 MPH.

Thank you. If you have any questions I will be happy to try and answer them.