



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

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**Testimony of Meghan Russo
Maine Department of Transportation
Before the 132nd Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

Neither for Nor Against

LD 1457

*Resolve, to Allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to Conduct a Pilot Program to Implement
Automated Speed Control Systems in Highway Work Zones*

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Meghan Russo, and I serve as the Director of Government Affairs at the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). MaineDOT is neither for nor against LD 1457.

LD 1457 would authorize the Maine Turnpike Authority, in collaboration with MaineDOT and the Department of Public Safety, to establish a pilot program for the use of up to three automated speed enforcement systems in highway work zones. These systems would capture images of license plates from vehicles exceeding the posted work zone speed limit by 11 miles per hour or more. A notice of violation would then be issued to the vehicle's registered owner, with an initial violation resulting in a warning and subsequent offenses subject to a fine.

Between 2011 and 2023, Maine experienced 7,143 work zone crashes, resulting in 23 fatalities and 145 serious injuries. Despite clear signage, cones, and the visible presence of workers, many motorists continue to speed through these active work zones. Fourteen other states, including Pennsylvania and Maryland, have implemented similar enforcement programs and reported crash reductions of up to 47%.

MaineDOT's greatest asset is its people. Our employees rely on every available safety measure to protect themselves and their colleagues while working on Maine's roads. Unfortunately, existing tools have not always been effective in encouraging drivers to reduce their speed in work zones. At its core, work zone speed enforcement is about saving lives—those of our workers, drivers, and passengers alike.

If the committee chooses to advance this legislation, we believe LD 1457 would serve as a valuable addition to MaineDOT's safety toolbox, supporting both our frontline employees and our contracting partners.

Thank you for your time.