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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Senator Joe Rafferty testimony presenting

LD 1644, "An Act to Require Train Axle Bearing Sensors to Be Installed on Passenger Rail Lines"

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
April 30, 2025**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Joe Rafferty, and I represent Senate District 34, which includes the towns of Berwick, North Berwick, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells. I am here today to present LD 1644, "An Act to Require Train Axle Bearing Sensors to Be Installed on Passenger Rail Lines."

This legislation does as the title states. Train axle bearing sensors are devices used on locomotives to monitor the condition of axle bearings. These devices monitor the axle's temperature, so that if the axle gets too hot, they can ensure that the crew can be alerted quickly and can take necessary action to remedy the situation.

The last thing that any of us want, is a train carrying hazardous materials to derail and crash in any part of our state. I remember the train crash from two years ago that started a small forest fire near Rockwood. We need to take steps to reduce the risk of such a derailment happening again. I believe this bill will play a part in doing so, and any chance we have to mitigate potential damages should be taken.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I invite you to direct your questions to some of the speakers after me, who may be more knowledgeable on this subject.