

Testimony of Todd Sawyer in Support of LD 1549
Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use and
Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues
132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
May 1, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Transportation, I am Todd Sawyer of Pike Industries here today in favor of LD 1549, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use and Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues.

Pike Industries was established in 1872 and has evolved into one of the largest asphalt and aggregate materials producers in New England. Over the years, the Company's operations have expanded to include divisions in aggregate production, asphalt grinding, reclamation, and a heavy highway division that handles earthwork, pipe installation, and site work. Pike currently operates over 40 asphalt plants and 20 crushing facilities throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

As this committee is aware, transportation funding has historically been comprised of state and federal money and subsidized using bonds approved by the Maine people. This has not been adequate to keep up with Maine's aging infrastructure. Decades of deferred maintenance have left many of our roads and bridges in poor condition. It is time Maine addresses this funding shortfall in a meaningful way so as not to continue down this road. Delaying repairs only increases costs for the next generation.

LD 1549 is an opportunity, plain and simple. Directing 60% of automobile-related sales and use tax revenue to the Highway Fund is an appropriate use of that money and will allow MaineDOT to do more comprehensive repairs, not just patch work. It will also provide stability for industry. Companies like Pike will be able to better plan for the construction season if we know projects are going out to bid. For us, that means shifting the appropriate resources to Maine, producing and manufacturing the necessary materials, and training the skilled workers to fix Maine's roads.

It's never an easy time to allocate the appropriate funding, we understand the complicated debate on where tax dollars should be allocated. But each year we defer road maintenance, it gets passed down to our kids and grandchildren. Today we have the chance to allow voters to make the decision.

For these reasons I ask that you support Senator Farrin's bill, LD 1549. I'd be happy to answer any questions.