

John L Busch
Brooklin
LD 1513

I have been actively looking to purchase raw land in Maine for several years, and came close to purchasing land on the Blue Hill Peninsula last year, but did not, after exhaustive research (by me, with advise from Maine ROADways) concluded that the road to that land was discontinued long ago (yet, amazingly, no one directly involved in the sale claimed to know that!).

Clarification on abandoned/discontinued roads in Maine is sorely needed.

I have read the draft of the bill for creating a commission to address abandoned/discontinued roads, and one thing sticks out: the composition of the proposed commission is very top heavy with civil servants.

Where are the representatives of the people?

Please don't suggest that the NGOs included represent the people; they represent the NGOs. And adding just one member representing the people isn't enough; they would be completely overwhelmed by the civil servants on the commission.

I would like to suggest that there should be at least three (3) members of the commission who are residents of Maine who own private land in Maine accessible only by an abandoned/discontinued road, and at least two (2) of those members should be actual residents on that land.

The people need a strong voice on this commission. Otherwise, it is just another government body stacked in favor of government and NGOs.