

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and members of the Committee on State and Local Government:

I am writing in support of L.D. 1513 as amended with revisions noted below to form a permanent Commission to work on the problems of abandoned and discontinued roads with public easements. The issues are complex throughout the State of Maine, requiring more study than is possible during a single legislative session.

I support the proposed amendment with assurance that this commission be of a balanced powers of membership. The voting powers of membership must have equal representation. Since this bill is in regards to private property and municipality issues, the membership must be balanced. A land owner might be someone living in another state and may not have as much a concern of the roadway as compared to someone who lives year round. I agree that the Commission if it includes a RESIDENT ON such a road under Members D(5), and in Duties (A), not just a Maine resident who owns property on such a road. Landowners have representation through Members D(3).

I would request that a member owning seasonal property of a private way and is a resident of Maine also be a member. Since the issue is about having PUBLIC EASEMENT use on private property owners land, creates a conflict and burden on private ownership. When the municipality gives the public "unfettered rights to use the land" there is major abuse by the public. Thus I request that private way owners be on this council.

I request that the commission resolve the issue of ATV's on public easements, which is a concern for both discontinued roads and private roads that are public easements.

As a resident of Maine and owning a summer camp in Windham, I have witnessed dangerous abuse by the public. Neighbors found people in their cars committing sexual acts, drug needles found on our land, no police protection, gun bullets through signs posting "no trespassing, private property", ATV's ripping up our land, homeless forts built, trespassers threatening our lives, and homes being broken into and items stolen. These and many more examples demonstrate the lack of safety, and abuse by the public in which the municipalities have authorized but provide NO funding or protect to private owners. This abuse by municipalities claiming roads as public easement burdening private owners (at their own expense) must be stopped. Therefore for this commission to function equally and fairly, must have balanced voting membership.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely, Margaret Cardoza, resident of Portland and owning a summer camp in Windham, Maine.

Margaret Cardoza
Portland
LD 1513

I am in support of the commission with revisions of membership and adding issues of safety.