

Eli (Elizabeth) Dale
Portland
LD 1513

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Eli Dale, and I live in Portland. My husband and I owned property with a little cabin on it off an abandoned/discontinued road. Sorry I don't know the legal difference between these terms, nor do I know how the town has designated the road. All I know is they don't take care of it anymore.

I am writing IN SUPPORT of L.D. 1513 as amended, to form a permanent Commission to work on the problems of abandoned and discontinued roads.

These roads affect residents throughout the State of Maine, and the issues are complex, requiring more study than is possible during a single legislative session.

I also support Maine ROADWays proposed amendment. I agree that the Commission should INCLUDE A RESIDENT on such a road under Members D(5), and in Duties (A). I am a big fan of ROADWays – without them I wouldn't know how and when to reach out to you. I wouldn't know the issues.

The abandoned road we used to access our property is in Benton, but our property was in Clinton, so making requests of the town where we didn't pay taxes felt awkward. I only met with the Benton road commissioner once and he said, "You have the right to access your land." What he meant was, I had the "right" to repair the road myself to have access to the land. Meanwhile, everyone with a vehicle, ATV, snowmobile, or horse could use the road to come "visit" our property. Eventually, after thousands of dollars of road repair and years of vandalism, we sold out. The new owners deserve some consideration.

I ask you to vote this important legislation "ought to pass."

Thank you.