

Paul Denis
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

To Whom it May Concern:

I write this to you as one of the stewards of a discontinued town road. We have been lucky enough in circumstance where we have the means and great neighbors who all contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the road. However, we have had individuals abuse the road and require sections of the road to be repaired. In a few instances during mud season, we could hardly drive a pickup truck down certain parts of the road. This damage was done by members of the public who have the right to travel the road. We have been fortunate where these have been isolated incidents, had these been regular during certain times of the year, it could have posed a risk if we were in need of emergency vehicles.

When discontinuing a road with §3026-A, damages are paid as a one-time occurrence. In the Town I reside in, I believe we have sixteen discontinued roads with public easements, all but one has a house on the road, and everyone is a dirt or gravel road. When a public easement is maintained, the one time payment of damages can be followed by a lifetime of maintenance costs on these dirt or gravel roads. The maintenance costs could be largely from the public. When gross damage is done by the public to public roads, the Town or City is obligated to provide a safe way as stated in the current version of §3651. I feel as though the same standard should apply on public easements, and I am in support of the amended modified bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PD' with a stylized flourish.

Paul Denis