

February 1, 2022

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

My name is John Lowry, and I live in Porter. I own property on an abandoned road. It is taxed as having a house lot and yet is unmaintained and inaccessible for more than half the year. 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), not just a Maine resident who owns property on such a road. Landowners have representation through Members D(3).

I serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee for my town and as a member of the Appeals Board. I also serve on the board of a small land trust. The issue of discontinued and abandoned roads has come up frequently in all these venues and has created much discord and confusion, most generally involving questions of rights of way and maintenance.

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

Thank you.

John Lowry
351 Old Meetinghouse Road
Porter