



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony in support of:

LD 1513, “An Act To Require the Maintenance of a Discontinued Public Road That Provides the Sole Access to One or More Residences”

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and the distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Dan Newman, State Representative for House District 76, which includes the towns of Belgrade, Rome, Vienna, Mt Vernon, Fayette, and Wayne. I am here to present LD 1513, “An Act To Require the Maintenance of a Discontinued Public Road That Provides the Sole Access to One or More Residences”.

This bill was put forward at the request of constituents that are residents in my district. For more than 30 years, they have been trying to resolve the issue of “access and maintenance” to discontinued town roads, that provides access to their residences.

When a town or municipality discontinues or abandons a road but insists on maintaining a public easement to allow the general public access over that road, they do a disservice to the property owners living on that road. In many cases, the general public feel they can tear up the road or use it for heavy equipment access without the obligation or liability of repairing the road afterward.

This bill would require the town to maintain the road to a passable standard if they are going to allow its use by the public, and provide access of emergency vehicles that may need to respond to the residences.

We need to remember that the residents that own the property that needs to be accessed by these roads also pay taxes in these towns and municipalities to help maintain all of the

District 76 Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Rome, Vienna and Wayne

public roads and if the town or municipality wish to maintain control of the roads after discontinuance they need to be held to a minimum standard of maintenance, if not they need to find a way to allow the residents to create a private road and allow them to decide who has access over it.

Thank you for your time and please join me in supporting LD 1513.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Newman
State Representative District 76