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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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February 18, 2021

Testimony of Meghan Russo
Maine Department of Transportation
Before the 130th Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Neither For Nor Against

LD 267

*Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Erect and Maintain
Markers to Commemorate and Recognize the Lafayette Trail*

Senator Diamond, Representative Martin, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Meghan Russo, and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Maine Department of Transportation. MaineDOT is neither for nor against LD 267, *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Erect and Maintain Markers to Commemorate and Recognize the Lafayette Trail*.

MaineDOT considers the naming of bridges, roadways, and other state transportation infrastructure to be within the purview of the legislature. Accordingly, we generally do not take positions on so-called “naming bills.” As some on this committee will recall, this bill was submitted last session and failed to pass in both bodies before the legislature adjourned due to the pandemic. MaineDOT testified neither for nor against last session’s bill, but we did ask that the bill be amended to include the specific route that will be designated. We are pleased to see that this new proposal does include the specified route.

While reviewing the proposed route to determine an estimated fiscal impact, we did notice some areas once the route reaches Portland that could prove problematic when directing traffic. Also based on this additional information we were able to determine that approximately 100 signs would be needed to adequately sign the trail and the estimated cost of these signs, poles, and staff hours is \$20,000.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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