

Joseph Leonard  
Bangor

VOTE OUGHT NOT TO PASS LD 1133

Maine Department of Transportation is telling the legislature to change the law when the legislature is the only body that has the authority to change the law. Further, the State Railroad Preservation Act has protected rail lines for decades and is being threatened by out-of-state special interest groups, and, most notably, LD 1133.

The timing is very poor. Multiple state-wide initiatives pertaining to rail corridors are currently waiting to be presented to the legislature. During a period of time where the Biden administration is looking to massively invest in a national rail system, this legislation would put rail through a committee that will thwart any rail initiatives, national or not.

The bill itself is inherently flawed. Section two incorporates rail language for a bill that is predominately about roads and highways? This section itself should be removed or the legislation should be pushed off later in the year once already submitted rail legislations have been lead by the legislature.

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