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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HEATHER JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

April 4, 2023

Testimony of Victoria Foley

In Opposition to LD 1141

An Act to Improve Access and System Preservation by Providing Shoulders and Bicycle Lanes on State Roadways Leading to State Parks and Other Significant Destinations

Good afternoon, Sen. Chipman, Rep. Williams, and distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation. I am Victoria Foley, legislative liaison for the Department of Economic and Community Development, and I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1141.

While our department supports the creation of trails and visitation to state parks and our many other natural assets for visitors from within Maine and further afield, we are concerned about the portion of the bill that requests a transfer of marketing dollars from the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund. Those dollars are used to market our state to visitors from around the world, and taking funds from that purpose would impact the ability to do that.

It is our understanding that the bill sponsor is working with stakeholders to propose an amendment to the bill as currently drafted. We look forward to seeing that language and working toward a solution.

Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information for your work session.