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LD 1141

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This bill is a bad bill for bicyclists as it does not address the needs of people all across Maine who have no place to walk or bike safely in their own neighborhoods. The bill proposes dedicating funds that are much needed in rural communities to pave 5' bike lanes in highly trafficked State Parks. These bike lands would not address the needs of the general population, they would only serve those who use high traffic state parks or state/regionally important destination, which would primarily be tourists in southern & mid-coast Maine, or those on Mount Desert Island biking to/near Acadia National Park.

I work in tourism, transportation planning, and community development across Washington and Hancock Counties. Every single time I have a meeting with community members about town planning, transportation, tourism, and just life in the area people raise concerns about safe biking and walking.

WE NEED SAFE BIKING AND WALKING FACILITIES IN OUR DOWNTOWNS AND NEIGHBORHOODS WAY MORE THAN WE NEED THEM ON HIGHLY VISITED STATE PARKS!!!!!!!

Dedicating funds to paved bike lanes at state parks does NOTHING to help the vast majority of communities across Maine and only removes funds that could have been used to help them.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine has a mission of developing safe biking and walking in Maine, but their focus has primarily been on southern and central Maine. What Maine needs is for the Bicycle Coalition of Maine to actually serve all Mainers per their mission, including RURAL Maine. Rural Mainers want bicycle programs, safety improvements, and advocacy in Hancock, Washington, and Aroostook County. I am sure the same is true for other rural regions of Maine. People want to bike and walk in their own hometowns; the average person does not travel to highly visited State Parks to do this.

If our Representatives and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine truly want to help bicyclists and pedestrians in Maine, they would be much more effective in expanding their reach to rural regions that want them and have committed people and resources to help. This is what MaineDOT is trying to do with the funds and time that they have now, adding another program to their list of things to do will only detract from their ability to help rural communities. BCM already has a partnership with MaineDOT but puts their focus on urban areas. If any Bill is proposed to help Mainers by forcing MaineDOT's hand, then the bill should require that MaineDOT funds given to BCM should serve ALL Mainers, not just those in urban areas. **MOST OF MAINE IS RURAL WITHOUT ADEQUATE BIKE/PED FACILITIES!!**

The person who requested that Marianne Moore draft this bill is a bicyclist from Roque Bluffs, which includes the low-trafficked Roque Bluffs State Park. This bill specifically indicates bike lanes on the highest trafficked State Parks, meaning it will NOT help the folks in Roque Bluffs at all, and it will help NO ONE in the rural regions of Maine. In summary, this is a bad bill for bicyclists because it doesn't really help the people who want to bike in their own communities and who NEED to bike for transportation. In Washington County, where I live, and probably in many areas of Maine, people actually use bicycles because they do not have cars.

Please oppose this bill and send BCM and our Representatives back to the drawing board to work directly with constituents, MaineDOT, and people who walk and bike in their home communities to draft something that actually helps Mainers, not just tourists or people who live in urban areas.