

**Testimony of Genice Gorman
In Support of LD 1020**

April 3, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

My name is Genice Gorman, I live in Gorham, Maine, and I am frequent commuter on routes 25 and 114 in Gorham Maine and Scarborough Maine.

I support LD 1020 because:

- There's no route for this highway that would not cut through Smiling Hill Farm, a rare surviving local dairy farm, one of the oldest family-owned small businesses in the country and a community staple.
- The family at Smiling Hill Farm has shown remarkable resiliency and dedication to preserving their farm and their legacy. As their long-time neighbor, I believe we owe them our support and respect.
- Scarborough and Westbrook (as well as most people surveyed regarding the connector) do not want or support this project and we should respect the wishes of these communities.
- I do not support spending money on a project of limited positive impact. There will be permanent damage to the environment and detrimental effects (including health effects) to the quality of life of the people who live within the environs of the proposed road.

The MTA has been misleading the public over and over - they hid the rising costs, they hid the falling traffic numbers, they claimed a traffic study in 2023 justified the project but that has not been confirmed, they hid the poll they conducted that showed most people opposed it, and they kept information from the owners of Smiling Hill Farm. The lack of transparency has caused a loss of credibility with the public. It's a problem that goes deeper than one project or one leader.

I am willing to assist the committee in any way that is helpful. Thank you.

Genice Gorman
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