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LD 1020

I am testifying that this bill Ought to Pass, as its passage is the best way to start a serious discussion about how to truly address transportation issues in Gorham, Scarborough and Westbrook.

The proposed Connector would likely not solve the transportation issues it purports to solve - and would probably increase the challenges Maine is facing to retain its character while addressing the needs of its residents. I am glad to see that MDOT is going to take a serious look at solving this sticky problem without assuming the Connector is the solution. This bill will help keep that study unbiased rather than relying on a preordained "easy" solution.

As Maine struggles to pay for its current transportation infrastructure, it seems unwise for the MTA to pay over \$300 million to build a new limited access highway that will increase sprawling development in communities such as Hollis and Buxton, introducing new pass-through traffic that will clog up local roads in Gorham without providing any real economic benefit.

Even if this project would accomplish its stated goals, MTA auditors have found that the Connector will not pay for itself, but instead will require significant toll increases on the main Turnpike to subsidize construction and maintenance. This is unfair to the many working Mainers who pay tolls to maintain the current road.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Maine residents.

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