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Freeport
LD 1020

I'm writing to urge you to support LD 1020 to repeal the Gorham Connector authorization. The Turnpike Authority has now conceded that the project is not viable and passed it off to MaineDOT. There is extensive local opposition because:

1. Building highways demonstrably does not reduce congestion, instead increasing it through "induced demand."
2. The Gorham Connector route would take land by eminent domain including 50 acres of the beloved Smiling Hill Farm.

My understanding is that LD 1020 repeals the authorization to proceed with the project and sells the land that was acquired through eminent domain. From having seen past megaprojects fail after taking land through eminent domain, I appreciate the thought that went into designing that part of the bill: first right of refusal is given to the original landowner. If they turn it down, it goes to the town or local land trust.