

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

My name is Tim Sturtevant and I live in Westbrook, ME. Please accept this testimony in support of LD 1020, An Act to Repeal the Laws Authorizing the Construction of a Multi-Lane Highway Connector to Gorham and to Return the Land Purchased under those laws to the Prior Property Owners.

The Department of Transportation should never have unilateral authority to destroy forested environments. Forested land is becoming scarce in Southern Maine at an alarming rate. These environments represent a way of life that is culturally important to all Mainers, and they provide us a quality of life that far exceeds the paved landscapes of urban sprawl. Most importantly, this limited forest environment is critical for species that we should consider our neighbors.

Recently I took a walk through the area proposed for the highway extension. I have included photos of the wildlife I experienced to demonstrate what is at stake, including a photo of a barred owl resting in a stand of white pines, Maine's state tree.

These ecosystems are important to me, and to all of us. Please limit our ability to destroy these dwindling natural spaces.

Thank you for your time.

Tim Sturtevant, 97 Lyman St, Westbrook, ME

