

## Testimony in support of LD 1457

### Resolve, to Allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to Conduct a Pilot Program to Implement Automated Speed Control Systems in Highway Work Zones

Senator Tim Nagle and Representative Lydia Crafts and the members of the Transportation Committee.

My name is Anne Maurice and I live in New Gloucester, Maine. I support the pilot program for Automated Speed Control Systems in Highway Work Zones. I am a bike rider and walker in my hometown and regularly observe traffic speeds well above speed limits. Speed enforcement in rural areas is virtually non-existent so speeding drivers have free rein on our roads. LD 1457 gives Maine the opportunity to start investigating how to control speeds for safety and the reduction of fatalities and injuries for all road users.

I see LD 1457 as a first step for Maine to try to get control of the rampant speeding issues all over the state. I do not believe that normal traffic enforcement with the police will ever be stepped up because of continuing staff shortages and higher priority policing issues.

I am part of a volunteer group in New Gloucester, Building Livability in New Gloucester. We have been active in traffic safety for three years and have met with New Gloucester officials, made public comments to the New Gloucester Select Board, joined Vision Zero efforts, started a PACE car program, participated in Town events to highlight traffic safety issues, and met with Maine's Bureau of Highway Safety. So far our efforts have not resulted in reducing traffic speeds much and it continues to be dangerous for walking, biking, and rolling in our Town.

Research shows that speed cameras are more effective at reducing speeding than manual enforcement because cameras are consistent and predictable for drivers. Traffic fatalities in Maine as of April 23, 2025 sit at 43 as compared to 34 last year and 17 in 2023. We need to take action now.

Please consider all road users and how we can better control driving behaviors and support LD 1457 which is a start to taking back our roads for everyone. As Maine's own Director of Highway Safety, Lauren Stewart, wrote in her widely publicized letter to the Editor in August of 2024, "What exactly is your hurry and is it worth your life or the life of another person?"

Thank you.