

Testimony of Greg Schaub in Support of LD 1549
Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use
and Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues
132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
May 1, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Transportation, I am Greg Schaub, Chief Estimator for Northeast Paving testifying today in favor of LD 1549, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use and Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues.

Sorry I could not be there in person, I had scheduled to review and finalize estimates with a value of \$38,000,000 next week and \$75,000,000 over the next 3 weeks. I wanted to fit in this testimony since it does impact our company and employees greatly. Between our paving, aggregate, liquid asphalt, earth and bridge divisions we employ 400 people from Lewiston to Presque Isle that rely on work that is secured mainly between the months of January and June. A typical year for us consists of 80% of our workload and revenue which is dependent on state and federal funding. Having a reliable source of funding for the roads and infrastructure in our state allows us to better predict staffing and equipment needs for future years. With our employees being seasonal it is a hardship on them when we do not have steady work and hours for them to make a living. Years that rely on bonds passing have been unpredictable, and have also caused projects that we were the low bidder on to be rejected at a later date due to funding shortfalls. Once we have received confirmation that the work was rejected other opportunities had past that we may have been more interested in to fill those gaps for our workforce. This unpredictability has caused us to have employee turnover due to lack of work or shorter work season. Turnover is not only bad for the employees having to search for new work, but also impacts the safety and quality of the work that we are putting in place due to inexperience. If companies know there is a stable work load year to year they may be able to secure more equipment, more employees and create a more stable environment for those employees.

In summary our paving, aggregate, asphalt, construction and bridge divisions all rely heavily on sustained funding in transportation. With construction in Maine being seasonal it is difficult to keep employees, many want year round jobs and the variability of funding and work load year to year can make even more difficult to keep employees as well as entice new employees to come to work.

Gregory A. Schaub, Chief Estimator, Northeast Paving