

# **TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY OUELLETTE IN FAVOR OF LD 1804**

## **An Act Concerning Funding and Oversight of Transportation Matters**

### **Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

Good afternoon Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, thank you for reading my testimony on LD 1804, An Act Concerning Funding and Oversight of Transportation Matters.

My name is Tim Ouellette, I live in Scarborough, and I am CEO and owner of CPM Constructors. Founded in 1985, CPM Constructors is a family-owned general contractor employing more than 100 people across Maine, focusing on bridge, pile driving, railroad, historic rehabilitation and marine construction work. Our clients include state departments of transportation (Maine DOT), turnpike authorities, municipalities, railroads, utilities, boatyards and other private entities.

We at CPM Constructors are in favor of LD 1804 because it provides consistency to the funding of transportation infrastructure in the state.

The lack of consistency, whether it be by tying funding to bond questions, or having funding managed by different committees in the legislature, creates uncertainty in the market. Our business, and many other businesses in Maine like us, spend a lot of money investing in our workforce, training workers in skills and safety and supporting programs at the community college and University of Maine systems. Additionally, we invest in equipment and technology to delivery the best infrastructure projects to the taxpayers of Maine. This uncertainty creates higher bid prices and delays these investments in our workforce, equipment and technology.

Additionally, as a company directly involved in road and bridge construction, we see firsthand the impact of underfunded infrastructure. Deferred maintenance and delayed projects compromise public safety and increase the long-term cost to taxpayers. I am sure members of this committee have heard from a constituent at some time or another complaining about the conditions of a road in your district.

By providing that the Highway Fund is overseen by the members of this committee, who understand the issues best and know that infrastructure is critical to the economic success of the state as a whole, and by dedicating consistent revenue to transportation

funding, Maine would create a more reliable and stable funding stream that allows for smarter planning, greater efficiency, and improved safety.

Maine Department of Transportation does a great job pivoting to allocate funds as funding levels have constantly changed over the year. With more stable and substantial funding, Maine DOT will be able to work with the construction companies of this state to make significant improvements in Maine's aging infrastructure.

I urge the committee to vote in favor of LD 1804.

Thank you for your time.