

TOWN OF MONMOUTH
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April 1, 2014

Senator, Edward Mazurek, Chair
Representative, Charles Theriault, Chair
State of Maine
Transportation Committee
100 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333

RE: An Act to allow signs for areas of local, regional, and statewide interest on the Interstate system.

Dear Committee Members:

The Town of Monmouth objects to the passage of LD1831. This bill attempts to solve a nonexistent problem (highway clutter) with an overzealous removal order. If MDOT was concerned about dealing with future requests for signage, it would be reasonable to grandfather existing signage and apply sensible standards going forward.

While we consider the proposed standards for interchange and supplemental guide signs overly restrictive, the most egregious sections of the bill are those dealing with modification or removal.

Not only does the Turnpike appear uncluttered, most of the signs appear directional and far from clutter or distracting to motorists. It seems MDOT could have more valuable objectives to focus their attention on than removing directional signs to our towns and recreational areas. Many people now use GPS but many more still rely on signs.

The Monmouth sign at mile 86/northbound along with 2 small continuity signs on Route 9, only provide guidance for travelers to our town. Those travelers, due to our beautiful lakes and the Theater at Monmouth, outnumber our population of 4,100. We have worked hard to improve and develop our town and we are dismayed that this small sign on the interstate may be removed.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Curtis H. Lunt, Town Manager

cc: Board of Selectmen
Pat Flood, State Senator
Mel Newendyke, State Representative