

*128th Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 12*

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Good afternoon Senator Hamper, Representative Gattine, and members of the committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

I am Senator Dave Miramant and I would like to present LD 317 "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond to Improve Highways, Bridges and Multimodal Facilities," and LD ~~590~~<sup>316</sup> "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Maine's Rail Infrastructure."

These are both necessary to improve and maintain transportation in Maine by supporting the ongoing maintenance of our infrastructure, as well as building upon it to increase options to automobile congestion.

Bonding has become the method by which we make up the annual 160 million dollar shortfall in the transportation budget. The work paid for by this is necessary, and without it our roads and bridges would begin to crumble. LD 590 expands our rail infrastructure to relieve the burden on the crowded Southern Maine highways along with moving towards and efficient comfortable means of moving into and out of our state. The entire amount of this bond would go to the rail and intermodal connections and not just 15 million dollars as the DOT Bond request proposes to do, with the balance of that 50 million going towards Bridge repair.

Thank you for your consideration, there are others in the audience who will be able to answer your questions.

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