16 May 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 905, "An Act To Authorize the Construction of a Maine Turnpike Connector to Gorham."

This bill would allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to construct and operate a connector in Cumberland County from Route 114 in South Gorham to an interchange on the turnpike in order to address congestion issues. The Maine Turnpike Authority and the Maine Department of Transportation have been studying this issue since 2007, and I agree that this area has a traffic problem that needs to be resolved.

Recently, I stated publicly that I support a connector in this area, but I don’t think that it should be a toll highway with the Maine Turnpike Authority. Maine citizens already pay enough in tolls when they travel in certain areas of the state, and we should not add additional toll costs to Maine citizens and businesses. I would support this project being done by the Maine Department of Transportation through general obligation bonds, as long as it can be done without the need for tolls.

For this reason, I return LD 905 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul R. LePage  
Governor