2 June 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 45, “Resolve, Concerning the Ownership of a Causeway on Long Lake near St. Agatha.”

While I understand how uncertain ownership of causeways can be problematic, this resolve does not address that issue in a final way. Rather, this resolve creates an unfunded mandate on the Executive Branch. It mandates the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Commissioner of Transportation convene a “working group” to study the ownership of a causeway near St. Agatha.

Typically when there are disputes as to ownership, these disputes are settled in the Judicial Branch, not in the Legislature and certainly not by three of the most important managers in the Executive Branch. I recommend those who have question about the title of the causeway seek redress in court.

For these reasons, I return LD 45 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor