

Joint Standing Committee for Appropriations and Finance

Larry Adams, March 25, 2013

- Good afternoon Senator Hill, Representative Rotundo and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.
- My name is Larry Adams. My wife and I live in Brewer. We are both retired and quickly finding out what it means to live on a fixed income.
- We're now at that tipping point where the bills get paid—but there's nothing left and this revenue sharing issue will take another \$190 out of our pockets. I must say we strongly object.
- I'd like to take this opportunity to address transportation appropriations.
- Soon you may be asked to fund the State's 20% share of the \$90 million dollar I395/Route 9 Connector project.

- I support NO-BUILD. My reasons are stated in the handouts presented to you.
- I urge you to read the handouts to make sure you fully understand our concerns. Please safeguard our limited State and Federal tax dollars by viewing the facts.
- The Brewer City Council resolved on March 13, 2012: TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM THE I-395 AND ROUTE 9 CONNECTOR PROJECT AND TO SUPPORT THE NO BUILD OPTION as did the Eddington Board of Selectman on April 24, 2012.
- The City of Brewer would lose approximately \$37,000 per year in tax revenues; not including devaluation of homes and properties in close proximity to the connector.
- Over the 20 year lifespan of this roadway, the City of Brewer will lose \$740,000 in tax revenues. The City cannot absorb that loss without going back to the home owner.
- This project directly impacts \$2.3 million dollars of real estate in the City of Brewer.

- Local businesses will suffer from “bypass affect” with a loss in sales; that means lower sales tax revenues back to the state. Many businesses have contacted the City with their concerns.
- This project will take our limited State and Federal tax dollars away from smaller projects that should have higher priorities. \$18 million dollars can fix a lot of potholes.
- 33% of Maine’s major locally and state-maintained roads and highways are either in poor or mediocre condition.
 - 40% of Bangor major urban area roads are in poor or mediocre condition.
 - 61% of Portland major urban area roads are in poor or mediocre condition.
- 30% of Maine Bridges are in need of repair or replacement.
 - 14% are structurally deficient.
 - 16 % are functionally obsolete.
- Until we get our fiscal house in order and restore our failing infrastructure throughout the entire state, I would urge you not to fund a single foot of any new highway project.

- The (Congressional Budget Office) CBO projects that the highway account of the Federal Highway Trust Fund will be exhausted in FY15.
- The Maine State Highway fund has a reported \$20.3 million dollar shortfall for FY14 and FY15; that shortfall can be offset by not funding the I-395/Route 9 Connector project. I urge you to consider just that.
- My contact information is inside the handout.
- Thank you for your consideration.