

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 7, 1937

Harold W. Hurley, Esquire  
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Dear Harold:

I understand from the State Highway Commission that one hearing, at least, has been held on the proposal to build a bridge between Boothbay Harbor and Southport under the Bridge Act. At that hearing the vote was two votes for the proposition and two against, and that both towns voted in opposition to the building of the bridge under that particular provision of the statute.

You, of course, have in mind that all of the money received from gasoline taxes and registration fees has been allocated by the legislature for highway purposes and none of it can be used for the building of bridges. Certainly the Highway Commission cannot use any part of its funds for that purpose except under the so-called Bridge Act which is in Chapter 28 of the Revised Statutes. You might be able to secure an appropriation from the coming session of the legislature. However, I should imagine that the legislature would not be willing to do this but would leave the towns to proceed under the Bridge Act.

You will also have in mind that no session of the legislature could make an appropriation for a bridge without at the same time providing either for a special method of raising the money so appropriated or have a diversion of some other moneys in the treasury. It is my understanding that all of the gasoline money, as you call it, has already been spent or contracts have been made for its use.

I am sorry not to be able to be of more help to you. If you want to come to Augusta some day I should be very glad to sit down with the Highway Commission and you and go over the entire matter and possibly some way can be worked out under which you can proceed. Delay in answering your letter was due to my absence attending a convention of Attorneys-General in Kansas City. I have had in mind that I would call on you but I have been very busy all summer and have not had much time to do anything except travel back and forth between Portland and Augusta.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Franz U. Burkett  
Attorney General