

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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December 9, 1937

To John C. Burnham, Director of Outdoor Advertising, SHC  
Re: Signs Erected by Towns

. . . There is nothing in the statutes which exempts towns generally from the provisions of the Outdoor Advertising laws, and I do not believe it would be proper for you to tell. . . any town that it can erect signs except under your supervision.

There are certain rights given to towns under the provisions of Section 10 of your amended act, and it would seem to me that it would be proper for you to advise any town that if it wishes to erect signs it should submit to you statements or plans showing the location and types of signs it is desired to erect, and then the Highway Commission and you can decide whether they are proper under the provisions of Section 10. This section states, as you will recall, that the State or any other political subdivision may erect signs intended exclusively for the safety, welfare or convenience of persons using the highways, provided these signs are not painted upon or annexed to any rock or tree. The last sentence in Section 10 contains some additional provision relating to directional signs under which you might find that certain particular signs were proper.

I see no way, however, that you can do anything else but pass separately on each submitted proposition in accordance with the provisions of Section 10.

Franz U. Burkett  
Attorney General

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