

Maine Department of Transportation

Via e-mail: Becky.Pushard@maine.gov

Dear Mr. Bernhardt,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, I'm writing to ask for your approval to place a 5-foot-tall tombstone memorial (like [this](#)) along Route 1 in Brunswick, just after the exit for Cook's Corner, as a tribute to the lobsters who suffered and died when the truck transporting them rolled over last week.

PETA's memorial would remind everyone that the best way to prevent such tragedies is to go vegan and thereby reduce the number of animals killed for food. Scientists have confirmed that lobsters have sophisticated nervous systems, and because crustaceans don't enter a state of shock when injured, they feel every moment of their slow, painful death—whether from being torn limb from limb on the road or [at the slaughterhouse](#) or when they're boiled alive in pots. People around the world are becoming more aware that lobsters and other crustaceans are intelligent beings who can suffer—[Switzerland recently passed a law making it illegal to cook live lobsters in boiling water without stunning them first](#). Even though lobsters have been known to suffer in confinement, the ones who died in the crash were packed into tight transport carriers, only to be violently thrown across the pavement, shells and limbs ripped from their bodies in the process. At a time when animal transport accidents are becoming more common, this memorial would be an effective way to remind truck drivers and Brunswick residents of their responsibility to fellow motorists and animals.

The memorial would be placed at the edge of the right-of-way farthest from the road so that it wouldn't be distracting to drivers. I hope to hear from you soon about getting it in place in accordance with your guidelines. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Katz
Director
PETA