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Senator Chipman, representative Williams and members of the transportation committee Hello, my name is Ethan Humphrey and I am an Old Town resident and I am here to express my support for passenger rail and its potential benefits to the state of Maine. The expansion and development of passenger rail lines in the state gives us the opportunity to improve Maine's accessibility to the rest of the U.S, provide an affordable form of transportation that reduces carbon emissions and promotes the tourism industry, and create jobs.

The expansion of the rail line to Bangor would give Maine greater access to the interstate rail systems and vice versa. As a newly admitted student of the University of Vermont, this extension would greatly ease my ability to travel to and from school and home, and encourage me to return to Maine once my education is finished. Travelling by rail is significantly less expensive than flying, so extending and creating more routes would give the tourism industry greater access to Maine businesses, which in turn would boost our economy. It would also make living in the state of Maine more attractive long term, and possibly lead to the creation of new businesses, and higher enrollment rates in many of our state's esteemed colleges.

It is also worth noting that higher usages of the rail system means less vehicles on our roads, which would lessen carbon emissions. Thank you for your time, Do you have any questions?