

Gerard O'Connell  
Newmarket, NH  
LD 406

From: Gerry O'Connell

GO Commercial Real Estate

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Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Gerry O'Connell. I am a resident of New Hampshire. My company is currently engaged in development at locations in Maine where we have identified as future train station locations. At Bethel Station in Bethel, Maine we are close to breaking ground and have positive expectations that sometime in the near future the State of Maine will initiate a passenger train service from Portland through to Montreal with a stop at the existing Bethel Maine Train station.

Our firm has also identified station location sites on railroad corridors in Maine. These corridors are mostly owned by the State of Maine. I am testifying in support of LD 406 Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads.

We are aware of the benefits for recreational trails using these corridors and connecting to stations. However, it was brought to our attention that trail users want to convert the railroad to become a public trail by removing the railroad tracks. We support LD 406 as an opportunity for everyone with an interest in these railroads to have a better understanding of the best use, and how developers like us may bring value to places with passenger train service.

Please vote to support LD 406 to get information out to all parties so the value of investing in railways is known.

Gerry O'Connell

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