

Caileigh Hopkins
Yarmouth
LD 1170

April 12, 2023

To: Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Honorable members of the committee

From: Caileigh N Hopkins

Re: Testimony in Support of Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters, LD 1170

My name is Caileigh. I live in Yarmouth and go to school at Waynflete High School in Portland Maine].

I am writing as a student to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1170.

I moved to Maine from right outside Boston a few years ago so I have utilized The Downeaster. Whatever direction I have been traveling, The Downeaster has always been an exciting part of my travels and has allowed me to keep in contact with friends and family across Maine And Massachusetts.

- The Downeaster will allow commuters and employees alike to travel with ease.
- This bill will give more Mainers the opportunity to explore parts of Maine and Massachusetts in a cost effective way.
- Will allow older Mainers to continue to engage in activities when they no longer can drive.
- Allow all Mainers to have access to new opportunities without the obstacle of transportation.

A few weeks ago my hockey team (the girls Waynflete/South Portland/Cape Elizabeth coop) took a trip down to Boston in the train to see the Frozen at Fenway Women's College teams play. It was an amazing experience that I will always remember fondly. The time on the trip grew out of the team's camaraderie, and the next day we played our best game of the season. I hope that other young players can do the same and have access to watch and experience a high level of sports from other parts of New England.

Respectfully submitted,
Caileigh Hopkins