

May 13, 2023

Dear Maine Legislature Transportation Committee

I write in support of LD209, which would authorize a rail trail on the unused corridor connecting Portland, Falmouth, Cumberland, Yarmouth, North Yarmouth, Pownal, New Gloucester, and Auburn.

I am a Portland resident. We recently moved back to Portland from many years away, and I have been disappointed in the provision of safe cycling routes in and around the city. I used to cycle daily and now do so only occasionally. That means more driving and less personal fitness.

Portland is the largest city in the state, yet lacks non-automotive access. The harbor defines one side, and then two Interstates and active railway lines sever many connections into and out of the city. One can only fault the city so much for its failure to create safe cycling routes when there are so few options available within its control.

LD209 would help greatly in providing self-powered access into and out of Portland, and in addition provide links to many surrounding communities. Please support this bill.

Many thanks
Stephen Patriquen
694 Allen Ave.
Portland, ME 04103

207 329-7301

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PORTLAND
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