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LD 209

I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to convert 26.5 miles of the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor to an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail. I lived for 45 years in Missouri, which has the longest developed rail trail in the country, the Katy Trail. I had the pleasure of riding the entire length of the trail, about 226 miles. (It took us four days.) It was wonderful to be in nature, to see the varying landforms and vegetation, to ride through the small towns and larger cities. But the best part was visiting the many small businesses (restaurants, lodgings, microbreweries, campgrounds) along the way and the people who run them. Based on this experience, I strongly encourage Maine to develop similar trails and encourage the businesses that will spring up to serve them.

Thank you.