

Tina West
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Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Tina West and I am a resident of Yarmouth. I am writing to testify in strong support of Rep. Bell's proposed amendment to LD 209, "Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council."

Having this rail trail through my community would be an incredible resource for me, my family, and my community.

As a Board member of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and a member of Yarmouth's Bike/Ped Committee, I am very aware of the importance of having off-road trails for pedestrians and cyclists to safely get from one place to another. The Portland to Auburn section of the Casco Bay Trail certainly provides a unique "safe corridor" for those who use active modes of transportation for getting to work, running errands, and staying healthy.

The Casco Bay Trail will also provide Yarmouth school children a safe route to and from school. Anyone who is on the road in Yarmouth between 7-8am and/or 2-3:30pm knows that there are literally hundreds of kids on bikes, on the sidewalks and in the roads . . . so driver beware. Since the Casco Bay Trail provides an easy-to-access north/south route through town, it would provide many of these children a much safer way to get to/from school AND help to ease traffic congestion in the Yarmouth downtown district.

I understand the value of keeping rail options open throughout the State of Maine. But, in this case, because the most logical solution for expanded train service is different from the most logical corridor for a rail trail, I believe that we can do/have both. Lucky us!!

I strongly urge you to consider and approve Rep. Bell's proposed amendment to LD 209.

Thank you.

Tina West