

Kathleen Follett
Cumberland
LD 209

Kathleen Follett
371 Main Street
Cumberland, Maine

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

My name is Kathleen Follett and I am a resident of Cumberland. 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.

My family and friends would use this trail often for exercise, relaxing social time (walking) and commuting to Portland. We, as a family bike daily from April-December (weather dependent) and having the ability to safely bike on trails would be an incredible advantage. We also have friends who commute to Portland and this would be an advantage for them as well. Along with biking, we also roller ski when we can, but unfortunately it is not easy to find safe roads to roller ski on. Having a bike path would be a huge benefit for this activity. We often drive to Brunswick to use the short trail they have, but it is not long nor ideal. I can see myself using these trails many times in a week (if not daily), especially in the summer. I would be able to bike to Portland for errands more easily, bike or run, and would also use it for walks with friends.

We have traveled around the world with our bikes, and bike trails are a huge draw for us when choosing where we will travel. The Rail trails in Quebec Canada are a great example of how beneficial and popular rail trails are for all activities: biking, roller skiing, roller blading, walking or running to name a few. We find whenever we are on rail trails the people who use them are friendly, happy and respectful. They often are families with small children or older folks looking for a safe space to walk. It provides a safe space for activities for all levels, and often brings communities together. Please keep the benefits to the many communities in mind as you debate this amendment.

Thank you.
Kathleen Follett