

Elias Leggat-Barr  
North Yarmouth  
LD 209

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263 Mountfort Road  
North Yarmouth

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

My name is Elias Leggat-Barr and I am a resident of North 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. I believe access to the out-of-doors and exploration should be a central opportunity for adults and kids alike in our State, and believe this trail opens up an unprecedented opportunity for outdoor leisure and exploration amongst the Maine population, which would be an amazing resource for all in the years to come and present a myriad of benefits. Living close to a trail network, Pratts Brook, right down my road, I have lived the privilege of growing up near such intricate and well-maintained nature trails right near my house. Through providing a trail running spot, or a grounding and restorative opportunity for a nature walk, alone or with friends, trail systems give back so much to the community and can be a hub for recreation and quality time spent outdoors. A trail such as this which links such a long stretch of Maine together is particularly unique, given it could open up opportunities for varying outdoor accomplishments, like the biking of the entirety of the trail, and various trail runs and 5k's which could be held on this expansive stretch of the famous "rail trail." I think the opportunity of this natural community resource being a reality is one which we cannot pass up, and believe you should all act accordingly to make this resource which will serve the Maine community for decades to come, a reality.

Thank you.

Elias Leggat-Barr