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LD 209

I am writing in opposition of this bill and to express my concerns over this rail trail proposal. I'm an abutter to the tracks and this will drastically change the quiet and peaceful setting of my property to have people walking, biking, and hiking all day.

I am very concerned about the extremely steep drop offs that are on our section of the tracks. Long stretches have 50ft drop offs with rocky cliffs and jagged trees. This poses a major medical safety issue to someone that may fall down. There is also NO cell reception along this stretch so if someone does fall down, they quite literally will not be able to call for help. How does the committee plan to make this safe for all users? Does a biker just lay there until someone else comes along and hears them calling out? Has the committee actually walked the entire stretch from Yarmouth to Pineland and seen these drop offs?

I am also concerned for my neighbors that have their back yard on the tracks and have small children. How are they to feel safe and allow their children to play outside with a sudden presence of people on their property? Will homeowners that have property lines on the track be provided privacy fencing?

How does the committee plan to patrol this trail for dirt bikes, ATVs, and snowmobiles? A sign does not deter anyone these days. This will potentially create a significant noise increase in our neighborhood. Will this trail have cameras posted to catch people that abuse it or will it be on the homeowner to constantly call the police?

I chose to build my house in a wooded and quiet setting. I did not choose to have a trail system in my line of site. I don't want to see people out my window all day long. I want to keep my privacy. I don't want to worry about who may be using the trail, who may be lurking around the neighborhood or be surprised when I go outside and someone is standing there. I want to feel safe on my property, I want my neighbors with small children to feel safe when they get off the bus. I do not think this is a good idea for our town. Those in favor do not have the rail in their yard and it's not affecting their personal space.