

Jack Duffin
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LD 209

Hello once more. I am Jack Duffin of Windham, New Hampshire, writing in opposition of LD 209, along with LD 404 and LD 1450.

I figure you'll find similar testimonies giving a myriad of reasons to avoid ripping up the Berlin Subdivision, Mountain Division, and other lines (freight and passenger rail boosting economic development, lowered emissions, potential for increased tourism, taking cars and trucks off the road which saves maintenance cost), so I'll spare you the nitty gritty about the widely reported potential benefits. Nor will I get into the concept of rails-with-trails, although I do believe they would be the best option for these lines and please the greatest amount of people.

Instead, I want to further discuss something I mentioned in my last testimony. As seen in my introduction, I do not live in Maine; I'm from New Hampshire. The Mountain Division and Berlin Subdivision are interstate (and international, up to Canada) rail corridors. Cutting off vital portions of these corridors and transforming them into trails is a major disservice to New Hampshire, Vermont, and the Quebec province.

I understand it is not the duty of a Maine legislator to change their mind based on the opinions of a small town New Hampshire resident, or someone from Vermont, and least of all Canada. That being said, allowing any of these bills to pass would be detrimental not just to Maine citizens and businesses, but to all those who pass within and through Maine and the greater northeast region. I am confident I am not the only one who holds these reservations.

I implore you to throw out the mindset that the cheapest option is the best option, and reconsider tearing up these rails for trails.