

Carrie McCusker
5 Poplar Lane
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
mccuskerrun@gmail.com
May 16, 2023

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and Members of the Transportation Committee

Subject: Support for LD209 - Portland to Auburn Rail-to-Trail Project

As a resident of Cape Elizabeth, an avid cyclist, and outdoor enthusiast, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Representative Bell's proposed amendment to LD209, "Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council." This bill proposes the conversion of an old rail bed into a multi-use trail that will benefit cyclists, runners, walkers, families, and more by providing a safe and accessible route between Portland and Auburn, Maine.

The current infrastructure in our region lacks safe and adequate options for bicycle commuters and recreational cyclists. Many roads are narrow, have limited shoulders, or have high-speed traffic, which poses a significant safety risk for cyclists. This new trail would provide a much-needed alternative route for those looking to commute between towns or simply enjoy outdoor activities without the fear of sharing the road with motor vehicles.

In addition to the safety and accessibility benefits, the proposed trail would positively impact the environment and public health. By encouraging more people to use bicycles or e-bikes for commuting and recreation, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle congestion, ultimately promoting a cleaner and greener community. Furthermore, the trail would offer ample opportunities for exercise, which can improve the overall health and well-being of our citizens.

The development of the Portland to Auburn Rail-to-Trail project is an investment in the future of our region. It would enhance our quality of life, foster a sense of community, and promote sustainable transportation alternatives. I kindly urge you and the other members of the Transportation Committee to support LD209 and bring this valuable trail to fruition for the benefit of all residents in the Portland and Auburn areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Carrie McCusker