

David Newman  
The Local Gear, LLC  
LD 1450

My name is David Newman and my wife and I own The Local Gear, a bicycle and outdoor sporting goods shop in Cornish. I am writing in support of LD 404 and LD 1450. Almost daily during the season, my customers are asking, “Where can I ride that’s safe? What trails are available locally?” And the answer is – there is nothing close by. We do not have wide shoulders or bike lanes on our roads and few local trails are passable for bicycles.

There is clearly a need in this area for safe, accessible recreation. A finished trail connecting the Mountain Division trails in Fryeburg and Windham would be a huge asset to our collective communities. It would provide a safe area for recreational walkers, families with strollers or children on bikes, wheelchairs, handcycles, and recumbent trikes. To have a distance in excess of 20 miles would open the usefulness of the trail to people running, walking, or riding for higher levels of fitness.

Please vote in favor of LD 404 and LD 1450.

Thank you for your time.