

Shawn Hunter  
Yarmouth  
LD 209

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

My name is Shawn Hunter and I am a resident of Yarmouth. I am giving 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.

This initiative offers tremendous social benefits. It would provide a safe, inclusive space for outdoor activities and non-motorized transportation, fostering physical fitness, mental well-being, and community bonds.

Environmentally, the rail trail would protect local ecosystems and wildlife habitats, while promoting sustainable travel, thereby reducing carbon emissions and contributing to the fight against climate change.

Economically, the trail could invigorate our local economy. It would stimulate tourism, increase property values, create jobs, and provide opportunities for local businesses, from bike rentals to cafes.

In conclusion, converting this unused railway corridor into a public rail trail presents a unique opportunity to enhance community health, environmental stewardship, and economic growth. I strongly urge you to endorse this transformational project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Hunter, Yarmouth Resident