

Scott Spaulding

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

My name is Scott Spaulding and I have been a life-long resident of New Gloucester. I am writing to testify in 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."

Having this rail trail through my community would be an incredible resource for me, my family, and all residents. This trail would enable and encourage people of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic situations to engage in healthy, outdoor activity and get around easier, and safer. It would improve the livability of New Gloucester and spur economic growth. As a trail with linkage to other communities, it supports urgently needed climate initiatives by giving people an alternative to getting somewhere by car.

I have traveled to other states to ride my bicycle on long distance trail systems and have seen how rail trails enhance and improve the communities they run through. From families who come out for weekend recreation, to everyday commuters and seniors who routinely socialize and exercise, these trails are always a welcome resource for residents and visitors. How great would it be for me to be able to ride my bike on a long-distance rail trail right from my hometown! How great would it be for my neighbors to have a safe place to get out and walk or ride without worry about speeding vehicles! How great would it be for the small businesses in New Gloucester to have this trail to draw in new customers!

Please vote in support of the Portland to Auburn RUAC recommendation. It is time for this unused rail corridor to become the rail trail the community needs and wants.

Thank you.

*Scott Spaulding*  
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