

## Mountain Division Rail Trail

My name is Margaret Zack and I live in Porter, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 404 to allow the Mountain Division corridor to become a trail and LD 1450 to help fund the building of the trail. The best use of the state-owned Mountain Division corridor is a wide paved trail for walkers, bikers and runners, which will be accessible to people of all ages and abilities. This trail extension will connect to the nine miles of Mountain Division rail-trail that already exists in Fryeburg and in Gorham and Windham.

I have frequently taken my bicycle to travel on the existing trail. I am supporting these two bills in the hope that a trail will be created closer to my home and will also cover more miles, thus allowing for a longer ride. I am so appreciative of bike trails because they provide a safe, fun and healthy way to get exercise and to enjoy the out-of-doors. I am 75 years old and I can't emphasize enough how important bike trails are in providing a safe place to walk or bicycle where you do not have to worry about traffic. In addition at my age I appreciate a trail that is flat and easily traveled, such that I have no fear of falling or over extending myself on hills and winding trails.

I have invited friends to bicycle with me. A few have become so excited about this opportunity for safe outdoor exercise that they have purchased their own bike after borrowing my daughter's old one.

My husband and I have traveled in other states and brought our bicycles with us to experience the rail trails they offer. We have met interesting people on the bike trails that we have found. We have visited areas that we would not have sought out except for the fact that there is a rail trail in the area. Rail trails create community and are economic drivers, bringing people to an area and thus developing a tourism industry.

I strongly urge the committee members to pass LD404 and LD 1450.

Thank you,  
Margaret Zack

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Porter  
LD 404

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