

Peter Zack
Porter
LD 1450

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF “LD 404” and “LD 1450”

Rail trails are gifts to their communities. This I believe based on my experience bike riding on trails along the Mountain Division corridor (Fryeburg, Gorham, Windham) and along the Eastern Trail (South Portland, Scarborough, Saco, Kennebnnk), and across the United States.

My name is Peter Zack. I am 76 and live in Porter and am writing in enthusiastic support of both LD 404 to allow the Mountain Division corridor to become a trail and LD 1450 to help fund the building of the trail.

My wife and I are not hard-core bicyclists. We are, rather, dilettantes for whom 15 miles represent a pretty good outing. Benefits? Well, biking provides great exercise and a terrific way to observe and enjoy a part of our world not normally seen through the windows of an automobile. How uplifting it is to encounter other folks of all ages on the trail, not just biking, but walking, running, roller skating and pushing baby carriages .Build it and they will come, indeed! And have I mentioned safety? Years ago I was hit by a car while riding on a road in my community. I am NOT going back there.

In the spring of 2022 my wife and I took a two month car-camping trip across the country and back. We took our hiking poles---and our bikes. We sampled bike trails from New York (Dutchess Rail Trail) to Virginia (Capital Trail)) and from Idaho (Trail of the Coeur d’Helene) to Minnesota (Paul Bunyan Trail). To the benefits of rail trails mentioned above I would add: Economic Drivers. On our travels we saw bike shops, eateries, lodging, and campgrounds which had sprung up along the bike routes to accommodate folks wheeling through.

I believe that rail trails are one of the most exciting ideas birthed in his country in the past three decades. Let’s keep the momentum going!