

Sherwin Parkhurst
Yarmouth
LD 209

Sherwin & Kristen Parkhurst, 39 Riverfront Dr., Yarmouth, Maine, Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Members of the Transportation Committee:
My name is Sherwin Parkhurst and I am a resident of Yarmouth. 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 my community. My wife and I are avid runners and lived by a similar trail previously in Newfields New Hampshire, the Rockingham Recreational Rail Trail. It was transformative to our family. We would often run the trail, walk it with our dog, and eventually are two young kids. Our kids would use it to bike safely and enjoy nature. To be honest, we would likely use the rail trail every single day in numerous forms. It would be accessible at the end of our neighborhood in Yarmouth and I would likely run on it daily. Our family would walk it during all the seasons and my kids would probably bike on it, including to commute to school given it would help us largely avoid the roads. A rail trail is such an asset to a community for people to commute to Portland, exercise safely, and be able to enjoy nature. There are limitless possibilities to connect with other trail networks and I can't think of a more positive and transformative project than adopting this plan to make this unused railroad a rail trail, especially since other rail lines exist to facilitate rail travel to Lewiston / Auburn. Thank you,
Sherwin and Kristen Parkhurst