

Paul Lattanzi
Yarmouth
LD 209

I am writing to strongly support representative 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.

After 25 years of service in the United States Coast Guard, I chose to settle my family in Yarmouth in 2016 and create a small international business here in Maine. Largely attracted to generational ties to Piscataquis County and outdoor activities that lead to an active lifestyle. I am a biker, and all three of my sons ride their bikes to the Yarmouth Schools throughout the year.

When I think back on my many duty stations in the Coast Guard, I recall those most fondly where I had the opportunity to commute to work on my bicycle. Biking from West Seattle into Pier 36, or riding from Jamaica Plain to the North End of Boston. I have come to recognize that most of the 100s of Coast Guard members that are stationed in South Portland live south of the city. I believe some may consider living in communities of Falmouth, Cumberland, Yarmouth and beyond if this trail enabled them to commute to work on a bicycle.

Further, my family has spent one week on Cape Cod each summer and an annual tradition is utilize the rail trail on our bicycles to explore the outer Cape without the hassle of vehicle traffic while getting exercise. I am always impressed by the numbers of locals and vacationers the utilize the trail, supporting a whole economy of restaurants, bike shops, museums, etc, that are along the trail. I could certainly see such benefits for the many communities along this trail.

I strongly encourage Maine to make this investment - it is an investment in the economy, the environment, and Maine's citizen's health.

Sincerely,
Paul Lattanzi
Yarmouth, ME