

LD 209 Ought not to Pause

An Act to Authorize an Interim Use Trail on the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor

My name is Ed Benjamin. I am a South Portland resident. I am testifying absolutely opposed to this bill LD 209. I am not in support of the State converting railroads into trails. The state is giving serious consideration to demands by bike groups to tear up the railroad tracks abutting my Portland property for trails.

That this is even being considered right now when we have a serious problem with homeless people living on trails in the City is ridiculous. These folks and more to follow will certainly be using the trail as a place to camp. This will not be a trail it will be a crime belt.

I understand the need these people have. I wish I could help them. But the best I can do is own and operate my commercial property, create jobs and pay taxes. I cannot have my property and property values threatened by a problem that is not being solved.

I have been involved with developers that want to use my land here in Portland as a train station location. There is a very realistic plan for operating a passenger train on this railroad between Portland and Lewiston and all the towns in between. My land is large, at 14 acres and can be a train station, parking lot, business center and have homes.

Do not allow this property to become a trail. Voter NO on LD 209.

DO NOT RIP UP THESE RAILROADS FOR TRAILS.
Use them for trains instead.

Ed Benjamin
Portland
LD 209

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