

Scott Moucka
Augusta
LD 404

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11 Drew St
Augusta

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Scott Moucka and I am a resident of Augusta. I am writing to testify in strong support of all the bills being heard today. I am in support of LD 209, which would allow the Department of Transportation to permit an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail on 26.5 miles of the inactive Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor, while preserving the corridor for future rail.

I am also in support of LD 404 to allow the Mountain Division corridor to become a trail & LD 1450 to help fund the building of the Mountain Division trail.

Having these rail trails connecting communities in Maine would be an incredible resource for me, my family, and the state. I believe the best use for these state-owned corridors is a trail and I support funding for trail systems such as these. Connected trails such as these will connect people to each other and to our natural places, providing a car-free alternative to get active outdoors and to get where we need to go.

Numerous states throughout all regions of the country are converting their unused rail corridors to trails. These trails, especially when they are connected to others, can serve as a huge tourism draw and revenue generator. In fact, I plan to travel out of state to ride the 300+ mile long C&O Canal Towpath and GAP trails between Pittsburgh and Washington DC later this year.

Maine has the opportunity to develop a similar trail system and these trails under consideration today are the start of that vision.

Thank you,
Scott Moucka