Montana Morris Baldwin - People's Perch LD 1450

My name is Montana Morris, I live in Baldwin, I am writing in support of LD 404 to allow the Mountain Division corridor to become a trail & LD 1450 to help fund the building of the trail. The best use for the state-owned Mountain Division corridor is a wide paved trail for walkers, bikers, and runners, which will be accessible to people of all ages and abilities. This trail extension will connect to the 9 miles of Mountain Division rail-trail that already exists in Fryeburg and in Gorham and Windham. This trail will bring ecotourism to the small towns along the tracks to help boost their economy. My partner and I own the water tower in Baldwin, across from The Whistle Stop, and we hope to create a business centered around biking once the trail is complete. 113 gets very congested with weekend outdoor tourist traffic. Having spent time working with the cycling community in Portland, Scarborough, and Brunswick I've found overwhelming support and interest for people who would prefer to travel to natural spots and small towns by bicycle. Having traveled many miles of roads on bicycle throughout Maine I can attest that more bicycle paths are needed for people to travel safely by bike in rural Maine.