

Testimony in favor of LD 209

As a resident of Brunswick, and an active cyclist, I strongly urge your support of LD 209, providing for the creation of an off-road rail trail for walkers, cyclists, and families. A trail on this scale would establish the towns along the corridor as a destination for tourists and locals alike!

A trail of significant length that connects through the beautiful pastoral landscape of Southern Maine can and should be celebrated as a win for health, community, public safety, transportation infrastructure, and the list goes on. With the proper support from the Legislature, this trail could fuel economic growth in tourism, retail, restaurant/hospitality, while enhancing the quality of life for local Maine people.

We have a toddler at home and love to get out with her on the bike. Unfortunately, riding on the roads is just an unnecessary risk, and in many of the towns that the trail would link, riding on major roads just isn't possible, nor prudent. The off-road nature of this trail proposal means separating cars and bike riders, which is the safest for both and would cut down on accidents and risk, specifically in communities that are densely developed or lack quiet country lanes.

This is a perfect use for the existing corridor, and does not preclude rail use in the future. This is a win for Maine, a win for local small businesses & for our people. I urge you to support this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

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