

Paul Botticello
Portland
LD 209

As a resident of Portland, a Board Member of Portland Trails, a former Outward Bound Instructor, a cyclist, hiker, and a dad, I fully support the bills before the Transportation Committee today that the RUAC has put forth.

Multi-use trails have numerous and significant community health and economic development benefits. Creating active transportation corridors is a terrific long-term investment for the state which will enhance the lives of our citizens and increase outdoor recreation tourism opportunities.

In the past couple of years, I personally have experienced two rail trails in other states – New York and Pennsylvania. The Empire State Trail stretches hundreds of miles along the Erie Canal and Hudson River, all the way to NYC. The Great Allegheny Passage runs 150 miles from Pittsberg, Pennsylvania to Cumberland, Maryland.

As I rode these car-free corridors, I wondered how they came to be – who had the vision and will to prioritize and fund these massive projects? The answer is exactly what you are doing today - elected officials with the conviction to enhance the future of their states through concerted action. I applaud the thoughtful proposals of RUAC, and I encourage you today, to bring this work one step closer to reality.

Thank you.

Paul Botticello
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