## The Town of Fryeburg

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May 18, 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation 100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1450- An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council

Dear Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Fryeburg to express support of LD 1450. Fryeburg is lucky to have a 4-mile section of rail trail in our town. We see daily use of the trail throughout the seasons and while we have not conducted actual surveys, it certainly appears as though the use of the rail trail increases each year. It gets used by walkers, runners, bicyclists, cross country skiers, and snowmobilers. It has been the location of annual foot races and events that promote bicycle safety and is a source of pride for the Town.

We are setting aside funds to keep our section of trail looking good and have further funding efforts to improve connectivity efforts recreational assets and businesses. This summer we are going to be constructing a 1-mile portion of sidewalk that will lead from the rail trail to our village area which houses local shops and restaurants. Fryeburg voters have supported these funding efforts locally and it is very exciting to think that this notion of connectivity can expand to other towns in our region, allowing for increased recreational and economic opportunities for all towns.

Please fund the recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory.

Regards,

Katie Haley Town Manager