

Nathan Reimensnyder
71 Durham Rd
New Gloucester, Maine

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

My name is Nathan Reimensnyder and I am a resident of New Gloucester. I am writing to testify in strong support of Rep. Bell's proposed amendment to LD 209, "Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council."

This is an pivotal point in our time regarding the protection and preservation of access to natural spaces in Maine. As more land is developed for private use, less is available for those around it. Having this rail trail through my community would be an incredible resource for me, my family, and my community.

New Gloucester is mostly rural with little to no available shoulder space and mostly 45 MPH speed limits. This greatly limits our ability to enjoy riding bikes and running in our area and especially so when including our 6 year old. The proposed trail would provide a safe space for us to take family bike rides without having to worry about cars or trucks at all times. Growing up in the area, the Royal River was an amazing feature to our town. One incredible aspect of the proposed trail would be its proximity to the river and the views and access it would provide. The views it would provide along this natural resource are some of the best in southern Maine, and access would allow for activities such as fishing and canoeing in the summertime and skating in the winter time. Overall, from a personal standpoint, my family and I would utilize this trail on a daily basis!

From a community standpoint, this trail would allow free access to natural spaces to those who aren't fortunate enough to have private access of their own. It would serve as a social hub, providing a physical space for our community to strengthen and grow. Also, with the increasing popularity of outdoor activities like biking and running, this trail would be an attraction to visitors who would patronize our local businesses.

I firmly believe this is an incredible opportunity for our community and Maine as a whole!

Thank you for listening!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Reimensnyder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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