

Testimony in Support of LD 511

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Distinguished and Honorable Members of the Joint Transportation Committee:

My name is Kim Anderson True. I submit this testimony in support of LD 511, a bill to “Resolve the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council.” I live in Freeport and am an appointed member of the town’s Complete Streets Committee. On January 2, 2024, the Freeport Town Council voted 7-0 in support of petitioning the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and the Maine Legislature to permit the conversion of 26.5 miles of the state-owned, inactive Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor from Portland to Auburn to an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail, consistent with the recommendation of the Rail Use Advisory Council.

Although the section of the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor at issue does not run through Freeport, the Town of Freeport is very much in support of the Casco Bay Trail Alliance’s plan to build a 72-mile looped trail, part of which is on the Berlin rail line, that will pass through Freeport. The proposed Casco Bay Trail will provide a new transportation route for commuters, increase recreational activities for residents and visitors, and afford economic opportunities for businesses in the town of Freeport. For this reason, Freeport supports LD 511.

I respectfully urge members of this Joint Committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 511.

Thank you.

Kim Anderson True

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