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To: Maine Legislature, Transportation joint committee

From: Chalmers “Chop” Hardenbergh, former editor *Atlantic Northeast Rails & Ports*

Date; 20 February 2025

LD 511 - Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council

Dear members of the Transportation Committee:

I support LD 511.

While I am always in support of viable rail lines, history of rail in Maine shows that the former St. Lawrence & Atlantic line from Portland to Auburn will never return to hosting freight rail.

Please direct MDOT to take any steps necessary to allow bike/ped use of this right of way.

CSX has an alternative rail line already in use between Portland and Auburn.

/s/ Chalmers Hardenbergh

Common abbreviations: **BCLR** - Bay Colony RR, **BML** - Belfast & Moosehead Lake RR, **CBNS** - Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Ry, **CCCR** - Cape Cod Central RR, **CCRR** - Claremont Concord RR, **CMAQ** - congestion-mitigation or air quality (money from the US federal government for these purposes), **CMQ** - Central Maine & Quebec Ry, **CN** - Canadian National Ry, **CNZR** - Central New England RR, **ConnDOT** - Connecticut Department of Transportation, **CP** - Canadian Pacific Ry, **CSO** - Connecticut Southern RR, **CSRX** - Conway Scenic RR, **CSXT** - CSX Transportation (railroad), **EMRY** - see NBSR, **FHWA** - Federal Highway Admin., **FRA** - Federal Rail Admin., **FRTC** - Fore River Transportation Co., **FTA** - Federal Transit Admin., **GU** - Grafton & Upton RR, **GW** - Genesee & Wyoming Inc, **HRR** - Housatonic RR, **MassDOT** - Massachusetts Department of Transportation, **MBCR** - Mass. Bay Commuter RR, **MBRX** - Milford-Bennington RR, **MBTA** - Mass. Bay Transportation Authority, **MC** - Massachusetts Coastal RR, **MCER** - Mass. Central RR, **MDOT** - Maine Department of Transportation, **MERR** - Maine Eastern RR, **MMA** - Montréal, Maine and Atlantic Ry, **MNRY** - see NBSR, **MPO** - Metropolitan Planning Organization, **MTQ** - Québec Ministry of Transport, **NAUG** - Naugatuck RR, **NBDOT** - New Brunswick Department of Transportation, **NBSR** - New Brunswick Southern Ry, parent of **MNRC**, Maine Northern Railway and **EMRY**, Eastern Maine Railway, **NECR** - New England Central RR, **NEGS** - New England Southern RR, **NHCR** - New Hampshire Central RR, **NHDOT** - NH Department of Transportation, **NHN** - New Hampshire Northcoast RR, **NNEPRA** - Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, **NS** - Norfolk Southern Ry, **NSDOT** - Nova Scotia Department of Transportation, **NYA** - New York & Atlantic Ry, **NYNJ** - New York New Jersey Railroad (PANYNJ subsidiary, former Cross-Harbor), **PAR** - Pan Am Railways - parent of Maine Central RR, Portland Terminal RR, Boston & Maine, all leased by **ST** - Springfield Terminal Ry, **PANYNJ** - Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, **PAS** - Pan Am Southern Railway, joint venture of Pan Am and Norfolk Southern, **PVRR** - Pioneer Valley RR, **PW** - Providence & Worcester RR, **QCR** - Quebec Central Ry, **RIDOT** - Rhode Island Department of Transportation, **Seaview** - Seaview Transportation Company, **SLQ** - St. Lawrence & Atlantic Ry (Québec), **SLR** - St. Lawrence & Atlantic RR, **ST** - see PAR, **TIRR** - Turner's Island LLC, **TEU** - twenty-foot equivalent unit (measure of container traffic, equal to a 20x8x8 foot box), **VAOT** - Vermont Agency of Transportation, **VRS** - Vermont Rail System (Green Mt. RR Company **GMRC** + Vermont Ry **VTR** + Clarendon & Pittsford RR **CLP** + Washington County RR **WACR**), **WHRC** - Windsor and Hantsport Ry.
* These railroads are part of the GWI short-line holding company.