

Kelly Ontl
Cumberland
LD 511

I live in Cumberland, ME and I would like to urge the Transportation Committee to vote in support of LD511.

I'm excited to support Casco Bay Trail from Portland to Auburn project in our area because I believe it will bring a lot of great benefits to our community and create a safe space for families to walk, run, and bike without worrying about traffic. It is also a great way to encourage more outdoor activity, making it easier for people of all ages to get outside, exercise, and enjoy nature.

A new trail would also help promote cycling as a real transportation option. Not everyone has access to a car, and having a well-maintained trail could make it easier for people to bike to work or even just to run errands. Plus, fewer cars on the road means less pollution and a healthier environment for everyone. We are a very car-driven society, so every bit counts.

I also think this project would also be great for local businesses and tourism. Trails attract visitors who stop at nearby cafés, shops, and bike rental places, giving the local economy a nice boost. The trail could promote cycling tours in Maine.

Finally, and perhaps most important to me as a wildlife conservationist, transforming the old rail line into a recreational trail may help protect nature and local wildlife by preserving more green space as wildlife corridors.

Please vote "ought to pass." Thank you.