

Stephen McPike  
Gray  
LD 511

Urging the Passage of Legislation for the Rail Trail Between Auburn and Portland,  
Maine

An Appeal to the Maine Transportation Committee

Esteemed members of the government committee,

I am a citizen of the town of Gray and actively work with land trusts in Cumberland County. I am writing to express my strong support for the legislation concerning the development of a Rail Trail that will connect Auburn and Portland, Maine. This project is not only a visionary step towards enhancing our community's infrastructure but also a crucial initiative that promises substantial benefits to our citizens and the environment.

#### Connecting Public Lands and Preserves

The proposed Rail Trail will serve as a vital link between existing public lands and preserves, creating an extensive network of accessible natural spaces. By doing so, the trail will facilitate greater interaction with nature, offering opportunities for education, recreation, and environmental stewardship.

#### Promoting Healthy Activities

The Rail Trail will encourage a wide range of healthy activities such as walking, running, cycling, and hiking. These activities are essential for the physical and mental well-being of our residents. In an era where sedentary lifestyles are prevalent, providing safe and attractive spaces for physical exercise is of paramount importance.

#### Boosting Tourism

The Rail Trail is poised to become a significant attraction, drawing tourists to the region. With its scenic routes and connection to historical and cultural sites, the trail will appeal to a diverse group of visitors. Increased tourism will bring economic benefits to local businesses and communities, fostering a sense of pride and investment in the area.

#### Environmental and Economic Benefits

Aside from promoting healthy lifestyles and tourism, the Rail Trail project will have positive environmental impacts. By repurposing existing rail corridors, we can reduce the need for new developments that might encroach upon natural habitats. Furthermore, the economic benefits derived from increased tourism and outdoor activities will contribute to the overall prosperity of the region.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, the legislation to develop the Rail Trail between Auburn and Portland, Maine is a forward-thinking initiative that will yield numerous benefits for our community. I urge the esteemed members of this government committee to consider the substantial positive impacts on public health, tourism, environmental conservation, and local economies. Your support for this legislation will pave the way for a healthier, more connected, and prosperous future for our region.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Steve McPike  
15 Wildwood Lane  
Gray, Maine