

**In Support of L.D. 511**

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

**Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

**Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

**March 4, 2025**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Mercedes Pour and I am a resident of Pownal, Maine.

I am writing in strong support of LD 511. I have a job that has allowed me to travel outside of Maine a bit. There are many early mornings at conference locations where I find deliberately created green spaces that connect residents with both the outdoors and each other. These spaces and corridors become places that people not only recreate, but commute and connect. We do have some of these in Maine – but they are very limited and often in more affluent areas.

The Casco Bay Trail has the potential to safely connect a number of different communities with an incredible corridor and to more urban areas. The proposed “triangle” of trail would be asset to local residents and those looking to travel across the region. This particular area – which overlaps three countries and two congressional districts – has rich tradition of outdoor pursuits and great potential in terms of residential interest.

I strongly support passage of LD 511 and thank you for both your time and your public service.