

Kelly Sink
Freeport
LD 511

To the Transportation Committee,

As a frequent cyclist and global traveler who has experienced firsthand the benefits of multi-use paths that connect communities, I urge you to pass the resolution LD511 which authorizes the department of transportation to implement the recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council directing construction of the Casco Bay Trail. Such trails not only improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians by providing a passage free of motor vehicles between population centers, but also attract tourists who spend money on food, accommodations, and other local businesses in connecting communities. These trails also improve quality of life for those dwelling near the trail by providing scenic and safe spaces for movement and recreation and spur the development of and revenue to nearby service-related businesses such as cafes and bike shops. Some examples of this effect include:

- The Pinellas Trail in Dunedin, Florida, led to a 100% storefront occupancy rate in downtown.
- The Katy Hiking and Biking Trail in Marthasville, Missouri, led to the opening of more than a dozen new businesses.
- The Stowe Recreation Path in Vermont led tourists to stay an extra day in Stowe.

The health and wellness, economic revitalization, connectivity, and improved quality of life that the Casco Bay Trail would provide to its surrounding communities would be well worth the investment. Thank you for supporting this bill.