

Chris Beam  
Lewiston  
LD 511

To the Transportation Committee (Hearing, March 4, 2025),

I am a resident of Lewiston and am writing to urge you to vote in support of LD 511. This measure would help establish an interim trail from Portland to Auburn. As a resident of Lewiston, I hope that sometime in the future this trail can also be extended into Lewiston and then further to Lisbon and on into Topsham and Brunswick. The town of Lisbon has already developed a portion of this right-of-way along the Androscoggin River for use by cyclists and hikers and, in the winter, for snowshoers and cross-country skiers. I have used such trails countless times in the past, both in Maine and elsewhere, both as a venue for exercise and to get to work. I can testify that this kind of infrastructure has immeasurable benefits -- it provides a safe and enjoyable locale for exercise thereby contributing to public health, protects the environment, connects to public transit, and provides options for people who don't drive or simply want to drive less. No doubt it also contributes greatly to the economic well-being of local communities. I urge the Committee to vote "ought to pass." Thank you.