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LD 511

I urge support of LD511. The value of multi-modal recreational trails has been documented for decades in other parts of the country. Maine, a state that personifies outdoor recreation lags so many other states in this regard, to the detriment of residents, visitors and the economy. I have ridden my bike coast-to-coast and border-to-border experiencing the full embrace of quality recreational trails and the benefits they provide to states and local communities. At present, to engage the same type of experience I must travel to Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire or Vermont. It's time to start catching-up and the Casco Bay Trail in general and the section to Auburn addressed by LD511 is a great way to get started and to prove the benefits. Others will address the route, history of the intended rail line and its current lack of use, duplication of rail routes in the proposed area and other issues all of which speak to the broad benefits and rationale addressed in this bill. It's time. It's been time for a long time to create a recreational venue with local, state, regional and international appeal. I urge you to support LD 511. Appreciatively, Doug Leland