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New Gloucester
LD 511

I write in support of LD 511. I live in New Gloucester, a short walk from the proposed trail. Our town is rural, and people drive fast. I feel unsafe walking and biking on my road and many others in town. As more housing is built, the roads will become even less safe.

Last fall I biked a 200k rail trail in Quebec, where rail trails connect many towns. The Petit Tren du Nord is a significant source of economic activity, with inns and cafes that service bikers skiers, skiers, and walkers. We also saw children walking safely to after school activities, locals out for a run, and families with strollers. The trail is a well-used amenity and clearly prized by residents. I urge the committee to approve the development of the desolate rail bed as a corridor for human use.