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Testimony in Favor of LD 457, “An Act to Fund Climate Resiliency Projects Related to the Repair of Campus Infrastructure Used for Active Transportation and Outdoor Recreation.”

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs; I am Brenda Peluso and I live yards from the Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) and the Spring Point Shoreway. I am in strong support of LD 457 as it is the first necessary step to protect both important educational and cultural resources.

I am fortunate enough to live in the home I grew up in and have seen decades of improvement to this area of South Portland which is now such an incredible asset to the city and the State. Sometime in the 1980s, my mother participated in the committee that formalized the Spring Point Shoreway trail which now stretches between Willard Beach and Bug Light Park and connects to the Greenbelt running to the western end of the City and into Portland. A majority of the trail runs through the SMCC campus and along the incredibly picturesque Casco Bay and Fort Preble.

Parts of this trail and the SMCC campus were damaged by sequential storms in late 2023 and 2024 and are closed to the public. These assets are worth protecting from further damage and loss.

I believe investing in this restoration will have a tremendous return on investment. Thank you for this opportunity to share a little about a truly amazing place.

Enjoy these views from the trail:

