

Beth Comeau  
Richmond  
LD 29

Good morning members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Beth Comeau, and I am a resident of Richmond who works in Augusta five days a week. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 29 and urge you to vote Ought to Pass on this legislation.

At the start of the pandemic, I purchased a bicycle, after not having ridden one in more than 30 years. Since then, I have logged nearly 2,500 miles on my bike. It has improved my mental and physical health, and I try to find as many opportunities as I can to ride. One opportunity I would love to have is to ride my bike from my home in Richmond to my office in Augusta, but currently the Kennebec Rail Trail doesn't connect on the Gardiner end to Richmond, and biking on Route 201 is not something I would do because of the speed and inattention of drivers I have seen while traveling that road to and from work. If I could get to the Kennebec Rail Trail safely, then I would be able to, on nice days, bike to and from my office, cutting carbon emissions and traffic on very busy roads, and improve my health and mood while doing it.

I think that the more multi-use trails the state can create, the better for everyone. Please support LD 29 for all of us who want to get outside safely while commuting and traveling throughout the state. Thank you for your time.