

Testimony of SARAH WHITE in Support of  
**LD 487: An Act to Support the Northern New England Passenger Rail  
Authority to Apply for Federal Funding for the Purpose of  
Identifying the Rail Corridor Connecting Portland to Orono as an  
Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Transportation Committee. I am Sarah White, resident of Tremont. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to support **LD 487: Directing the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to Apply for Federal Funding for the Purpose of Identifying the Rail Corridor Connecting Portland to Orono as an Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor.**

I support this bill that resolves to fund the important process of identifying the rail corridor from Portland north to Orono as an Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor, through the Corridor Identification Program. This bill will require no state taxpayer monies, as it will be 100% grant funded.

I am a retired Maine Park Ranger, Maine Forest Ranger, and educator, and most importantly, a grandmother, living in Hancock County. I moved back here after teaching for 21 years in Tennessee, to be close to my family and Maine's natural beauty. My son and his family also live in Hancock County. One of his children, my grandson, now in college, in Waterville, has taught me much about trains and rail transportation. Because of his deep understanding of the history and current state of Maine's trains, I get how rail travel makes sense. He and I have enjoyed riding Amtrak's Downeaster more than once. We also celebrated his high school graduation with a trip to London where we traveled both north and south of London by rail, to see the beauty and history of England.

Maine is a rural state, requiring often the necessity of driving long distances to get to medical clinics or hospitals, visiting family members, visiting children/grandchildren in college, attending sports events, and more. Maine also is the oldest state; myself being one of these elders, who are aging past the point of wanting to drive long distances. An Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor would allow me to easily travel to visit my grandson, and attend collegiate track meets, without the challenge of driving the several hours that it takes by back roads and highways, through often-challenging weather conditions. Such a rail corridor would be helpful as well as safer transportation for many of us, to go to a hospital, or visit our children or grandchildren in college. And from what I understand, the rails are for the most part still existing, either from past use or part of a freight corridor. This rail service may be quite do-able with few financial expenditures, which is why this study is so crucial; *little* required financial input that would provide *much* benefit to Mainers.

Thank you for reading my testimony, and please consider older Mainers and rail travel. Please vote 'ought to pass' on LD 487.

Thank you.  
Sarah

Sarah White  
209 Kelleytown Rd.  
Bernard, ME 04612