Mark Lacari Staten Island LD 676

Good Morning, my name is Mark Lacari. Though I live in New York and do not live in the State of Maine, I have to call out the idea of turning the former Maine Eastern Central Branch into a trail when it should be re-opened for railroad purposes. In an era where more options are needed besides biking trails, railroad infrastructure is a sought after commodity. It is a fact that privately run railroads often pay for themselves, while rail-trails do nothing more than waste taxpayer dollars and also wipe out another potential economic asset for our country as a whole. Maine alone has 35 Rail-Trails throughout the state that total to 400 miles combined. Why should any taxpayer foot the bill for another rail trail when there is already 35 of them? Private Enterprise and those willing to operate the railroad should be the priority instead of wasting valuable resources and money towards one more recreational trail when 35 others already exist. In short, Keep The Tracks in place and find those who will take care off and restore the rail line for the use it was intended for.