

March 31, 2025

Senator Tim Nangle, Chair
Representative Lydia Crafts, Chair
Members of the Transportation Committee

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT for LD 956 – Multi-use Trail Implementation on the Calais Branch Rail Corridor

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation,

My name is Craig Morrison, and I am the Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Calais. I am writing to express my strong support for LD 956, "Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council to Create a Multi-use, Trail." As the Parks & Recreation Department Director for the City of Calais, I recognize the immense benefits this project will bring to our community.

The creation of a multi-use trail along the Calais Branch rail corridor will significantly enhance connectivity between existing trails, providing residents and visitors with improved recreational opportunities. By linking communities and outdoor spaces, this trail will promote healthy lifestyles, outdoor tourism, and environmental appreciation.

Moreover, the economic benefits of this project cannot be overstated. A well-designed multi-use trail will attract visitors to Calais, supporting local businesses and encouraging new economic development. Outdoor recreation is a growing industry in Maine, and investing in this infrastructure will position Calais as a key destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

I urge the committee to support LD 956 and vote **Ought to Pass**. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Craig Morrison

Parks & Recreation Department Director
City of Calais