

Andrew Walton  
Steep Falls  
LD 676

March 31, 2025

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

My name is Andrew Walton, I live in Steep Falls(Standish), and I am the Secretary for the Friends of the Mountain Division Trail and live very close to the proposed trail expansion through Steep Falls. My family uses the existing sections of trail frequently and my children have learned how to bicycle safely on the trail. We want to be able to use the trail locally and beyond.

I support LD 676 because:

- In 2021, Maine DOT's Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC) voted 11:1 for the conversion of 31 miles of existing railroad track to an interim trail-until-rail.

- In July of 2023, LD 404 codified into law the recommendations of the RUAC

- Over 200 people offered testimony in support of LD 404 Letters of support for LD404

- LD 676 will allow MDOT to spend federal grant funding on building the trail from Fryeburg to Standish, thereby bringing substantial economic development opportunities to this rural area

I thank committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote: "Ought to Pass"

Thank you.