

Testimony for LD 676

My name is Sarah White, from Bernard Maine, and I am writing to oppose LD 676.

Please do NOT remove the Mountain Division rail tracks. It is vital to do everything possible to support our economy in Maine. These western rails are planned to be utilized by the Conway Scenic Railroad which will provide tourism-based jobs in this part of our state, as well as pride in the rail history that at one time in Maine was vital to our state's livelihood.

This part of our state would benefit from this opportunity for economic growth, providing needed employment for intergenerational jobs, which in turn is essential for Mainers to afford to remain here in our beautiful western mountains. It's not just the railroad itself that will provide employment, but the tourism-based employment for visitors who come to ride the rails; such as motels, restaurants, ice cream shops, train merchandise, etc. I know because I rode the New Hampshire Conway Scenic Railroad, and enjoyed staying overnight in a nearby hotel, bought train merch due to being a rail fan, and ate at a local restaurant. For a rural area, these economical opportunities are vital.

Because a railroad has expressed legitimate interest in running trains on this line and, as per the Rail Preservation Act, any non rail use is to be treated as interim until a railroad presents itself. The Conway Scenic Railroad is presenting itself, therefore any transformation of the corridor must be on hold while the railroad's voice is heard.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to vote, 'Ought Not to Pass' on LD 676.
Sarah

Sarah White
209 Kelleytown Rd.
Bernard, ME 04612

Sarah White
Bernard
LD 676

Testimony for LD 676

My name is Sarah White, from Bernard Maine, and I am writing to oppose LD 676.

Please do NOT remove the Mountain Division rail tracks. It is vital to do everything possible to support our economy in Maine. These western rails are planned to be utilized by the Conway Scenic Railroad which will provide tourism-based jobs in this part of our state, as well as pride in the rail history that at one time in Maine was vital to our state's livelihood.

This part of our state would benefit from this opportunity for economic growth, providing needed employment for intergenerational jobs, which in turn is essential for Mainers to afford to remain here in our beautiful western mountains. It's not just the railroad itself that will provide employment, but the tourism-based employment for visitors who come to ride the rails; such as motels, restaurants, ice cream shops, train merchandise, etc. I know because I rode the New Hampshire Conway Scenic Railroad, and enjoyed staying overnight in a nearby hotel, bought train merch due to being a rail fan, and ate at a local restaurant. For a rural area, these economical opportunities are vital.

Because a railroad has expressed legitimate interest in running trains on this line and, as per the Rail Preservation Act, any non rail use is to be treated as interim until a railroad presents itself. The Conway Scenic Railroad is presenting itself, therefore any transformation of the corridor must be on hold while the railroad's voice is heard.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to vote, 'Ought Not to Pass' on LD 676.
Sarah

Sarah White
209 Kelleytown Rd.
Bernard, ME 04612