

Testimony for LD 154

My name is Sarah White, from Bernard Maine, and I am writing to oppose LD 154.

Please do NOT remove the need for the state to consult economic planning entities before removing rail tracks.

Our state likely would benefit from a rail-based opportunity for economic growth, an opportunity for providing needed employment for intergenerational jobs, allowing Mainers to afford to remain here in our beautiful state. It is vital to retain this wording in our legislative laws and actions so that needed economic planning is done.

Please do not remove the wording indicated in the screenshot below.

Sec. 7. 23 MRSA §7107, first ¶, as amended by PL 2021, c. 239, §3, is further amended to read:

Except as provided in this section, the Department of Transportation may not dismantle or change state-owned track for a nonrail use or contract with a state agency or private entity for the dismantling or changing of state-owned track for a nonrail use. When the department, in consultation with a ~~regional economic planning entity and a regional transportation advisory committee~~ established in accordance with rules adopted under section 73, subsection 4, determines that removal of a specific length of rail owned by the State will not have a negative impact on a region or on future economic opportunities for that region, the Commissioner of Transportation shall seek review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters prior to removal.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to vote, 'Ought Not to Pass' on LD 154.
Sarah

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