

Gail Costello
North Conway
LD 676

April 1, 2025

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

My name is Gail Costello; President of Mount Washington Bicycling Club. Our club members strongly support this LD 676! The members ride this trail all the time and would greatly benefit from this trail extending to Standish!

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.

Gail Costello : MWVBC President