

Nathan Burnett
Hiram
LD 676

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

My name is Nathan Burnett and I'm writing this testimony in support of LD 676. I am also a high school math teacher, so view many problems through that lens.

I was on the zoom session where the engineering report was given. It made it crystal clear that even if a commercial opportunity to use the rails were to exist at some point in the future, the entire rail bed would need to be replaced because the ties are nearing end of life, and the existing rails wouldn't work for modern trains, and the trains the current rail is designed to support wouldn't be economical to use!

The trails-until-rails structure being proposed here makes complete sense.

Additionally, I live in one of the communities that should be affected by this and am incredibly excited at prospect of having such a wonderful uninterrupted and safe opportunity to cycle. I am only 38 years old, but due to a knee issues from childhood, walking is a chore. Knee issues happen to everyone, eventually. I can only imagine there are other folks in similar situations. This is a preventative health care opportunity too!

Thank you for your support,
Nate Burnett