

## Mountain Division Trail

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

My name is Chris Scott and I am a Gorham resident living on a road that abuts the Mountain Division Trail. I use the trail daily, sometimes twice daily for walking and bike riding. I have been actively involved with the Mountain Division Trail for several years and have interest with these developments.

- September of 2021, Maine DOT Commissioner Van Note established a Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC), as required by LD21, with representatives from all towns the rail-trail would pass, state agencies, regional planning organizations, and the Portland Water District.
- The RUAC voted 11:1 to recommend the interim conversion of 31 miles of existing railroad track to an interim 10' wide, paved bicycle and pedestrian trail-until-rail.
- Letters of support for LD404 were submitted to Maine's Transportation Committee by all towns and various businesses along the 31 miles of the rail line in western Maine, *over 200 testimony submissions and dozens of in person testimony provided in support of LD404 in person, and hours of Committee time.*
- The bill was passed by the Transportation Committee, Senate, and House with super majorities before being *signed into law by Governor Mills on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

LD 676, an act to fund the recommendations of the Mountain Division RUAC, is before the Transportation Committee. The Bill includes a one-time, \$500 placeholder for any funds received from outside sources designated for MDOT to spend on replacement of the tracks on the 31 miles of the rail corridor between the towns of Fryeburg and Standish per the recommendation of the Mountain Division Rail RUAC.

I thank committee members for their consideration and request you to vote:  
***"Ought to Pass"***

Christopher Scott

Gorham, ME

chris scott  
Gorham  
LD 676

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