

James Barker
Calais
LD 956

I am a Washington County resident who lives near and actively uses the Sunrise Trail all 4 seasons. The proposed legislation LD 956 would be of great benefit to not only myself, but all of my friends and family who actively use Maine's trail system. Being able to travel from Pembroke to the greater Calais area and have access to trails leading to northern Maine without having trailer our vehicles, is of great benefit.

Passing of LD 956 would bring greater tourist and local traffic to all points DownEast thereby benefitting stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels etc. Additional customers at these locations brings more revenue, jobs and greater economic impact to every town that has trails passing nearby.

In my current profession, I speak to dozens of small businesses, mom & pop stores, grocery stores, campgrounds, hunting/fish camps etc. To a person, all agree that more trail traffic would be of great benefit for their businesses and their towns. The butterfly effect of more tourist revenue to these small business owners and towns would be astounding. EVERY dollar earned is a business saved and dollar that does not need to be spent by cities, towns and the state of Maine.

Additionally, the Federal Government spent untold millions to build a beautiful visitor center at the Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge. The proposed trail addition passes through the entrance to said visitors center. Increased visitors to the center and the refuge in general provides a solid return on the investment by the Federal Government. This bill is a great thing for Washington County and all of Maine.