

Transportation Committee Hearing: LD 676 Testimony - Public Hearing 3/4/25
East Coast Greenway Alliance – Emily Paskewicz

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

My name is Emily Paskewicz, I live in Brunswick, ME and I am the Northern New England Manager for the East Coast Greenway Alliance. The East Coast Greenway Alliance leads the development of a 3,000-mile biking and walking route from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida, designed to safely connect people to their communities and key destinations. The East Coast Greenway Alliance supports LD 676 and the implementation of the recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC) for several reasons. While the Mountain Division trail is not part of the East Coast Greenway's route, it does connect to our route in Portland and is a critical piece of Maine's broader multi-use trail network. The Mountain Division Trail is identified as part of the proposed network in the [Maine Active Transportation Arterials plan](#) and [Rails to Trails Conservancy's New England Rail Trail Network](#). The Mountain Division trail will not only be a significant recreational asset for Western Maine, but it will also create an active transportation corridor from Portland west to Fryeburg. Lastly, the Mountain Division is well poised to spur economic development in the communities it passes through and would be a strategic investment in the future of the region and active transportation in Maine. I thank committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote: "Ought to Pass".

Emily Paskewicz
East Coast Greenway Alliance
LD 676

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