

Renée Russell
Portland
LD 676

April 3, 2025

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

My name is Renée Russell and I live in Portland, close to the railroad tracks.

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. 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 know a lot of people around here would love to use the trail for safe transportation and recreation.

I thank committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote: "Ought to Pass"

Thank you.

Renée Russell