

Karen McNutt
Standish
LD 676

My Name is Karen McNutt. I live in Standish Maine. I am speaking in support of LD 676 to help fund the building of the trail. The best use for the state-owned Mountain Division corridor is a wide paved trail for walkers, bikers and runners, which will be accessible for people of all ages and abilities. This trail extension will connect to the 9 miles of Mountain Division rail trail that already exists in Fryeburg and in Gorham and Windham.

As an abutter to this former rail line I am saddened to see this now state owed resource is rotting away when it could be used right now for people's enjoyment, connecting communities, and creating economic benefits.

My husband and I have bicycled seven different rail trails from Virginia to South Dakota on guided educational adventures. On every trip, we have been amazed at the bike and shuttle shops, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, lodgings and stores that prosper from the trails.

The reenergizing efforts of the Mountain Division Alliance and collective interest of the nine communities on the corridor is a positive direction for the project and I am excited to see its continued progress.