

Good morning, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Transportation Committee.

My name is David F. Bibber, and I am here to speak in support of LD956. I am a resident of Pennamaquan Lake in Charlotte and a co-owner with my brother of a camp and property also on Pennamaquan Lake that the proposed trail right of way runs through. The camp has been in the family since 1907, and the structure itself is approximately 100± feet from the right of way.

Several years ago, I took my granddaughter from the camp to Calais on my snowmobile on the bed. It was during the period when this area seemed to have a lot more snow. It was a beautiful ride and one we still talk about today. Obviously now we don't seem to have enough snow to regularly accommodate snowmobiles. So, as an owner and frequent rider of a 4-Wheeler, why not extend the current trail to include the rail bed into Calais? It is already being used by many 4-Wheelers, albeit a little rough riding on the railroad ties. It would be a beautiful addition to the current trail and as an abutting landowner, I am more than willing to give up a few seconds of the peace and solitude I find at my camp to see others ride by while enjoying the same beauty and tranquility of Downeast Maine that I am privileged to see on a regular basis. I think it is also important to point out that many senior citizens who have lost some of their mobility and are prohibited from hiking through the woods have now taken advantage of owning a side by side. You will find many of the users of the vehicles to be these senior citizens and despite complaints you hear regarding the destruction of property, it is minimal. Furthermore, we police our own and don't hesitate to gather the information necessary for the authorities to follow up on complaints. I ask for your support for this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this proposed legislation.