

Catherine Olsen
Brownfield
LD 676

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

My name is Cathy Olsen. I live in Brownfield, ME, and have used the existing rail trail in the Fryeburg, ME area numerous times, and have discovered it is a wonderful trail to use for walking, biking, or running. I support LD 676 because it will expand the trail providing these opportunities to many others who otherwise might not be able to get outside for exercise in a safe space (i.e., not on the side of the road used by cars). I also support the bill for because, in 2021, the Maine DOT's Rail Use Advisory Council voted 11:1 to convert 31 miles of existing railroad track to an interim, trail-until-rail track; in 2023, LD 404 codified RUAC's recommendations into law and over 200 people offered supporting testimony and letters, and 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. Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to vote: "Ought to Pass." Cathy Olsen