

James Tasse
Greenwood, ME
LD 676

I am writing to urge the Transportation Committee to support LD 676 and to create a mechanism to fund the construction of additional segments of the Mountain Division Line. I have previously testified in support of rail trails, as the best and highest interim use of corridors that are currently unused. If train use was practicable or profitable on the MDL (or any other fallow railroad corridor), I believe that the market system would have found away to realize that use. In the absence of a viable plan to put trains back on these corridors, converting them to trails for transportation, recreation, health and tourism will yield the greatest benefit to Maine's citizens. I would also support funding this initiative at \$1,000,000 annually until the proposed construction is complete.