

Deborah Merrill
Brownfield
LD 676

April 3, 2025

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

My name is Deborah Merrill. I live in Brownfield, Maine and I am in total support of the rail trail project as it would not only bring visitors to the many towns that abutt it, but would also give us a chance to recreate on a smooth flat surface with our younger children and grandchildren as well as strollers. As an aging resident, it would be wonderful for us to walk on as well as our town does not have anything even close to that concept here.

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
- Over 200 people offered testimony and letters in support of LD 404.
- 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 thank committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote: "Ought to Pass"

Thank you.

Deb Merrill