

Katie Haley
Fryeburg
LD 676

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

My name is Katie Haley and I am the Fryeburg Town Manager and a resident of Fryeburg. As a runner and biker, I personally use the built section of the Mountain Division trail in Fryeburg. As the Town Manager, I see the incredible benefit that comes with having a portion of this trail in our town and am excited to see the benefits that are realized as more of the trail is constructed.

I served on the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC) with representatives from all towns the rail-trail would pass, state agencies, regional planning organizations, and the Portland Water District.

After 9 monthly meetings, the RUAC voted 11:1 to recommend the interim conversion of 31 miles of existing railroad track to an interim 10' wide, paved bicycle and pedestrian trail-until-rail.

Letters of support for LD404 were submitted to Maine's Transportation Committee by all towns and various businesses along the 31 miles of the rail line in western Maine, over 200 testimony submissions and dozens of in person testimony provided in support of LD404 in person, and hours of Committee time.

The bill was passed by the Transportation Committee, Senate, and House with super majorities before being signed into law by Governor Mills on July 6th, 2023.

Now LD 676, an act to fund the recommendations of the Mountain Division RUAC, is before the Transportation Committee. The Bill includes a one-time, \$500 placeholder for any funds received from outside sources designated for MDOT to spend on replacement of the tracks on the 31 miles of the rail corridor between the towns of Fryeburg and Standish per the recommendation of the Mountain Division Rail RUAC.

I thank committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote:
"Ought to Pass"

Katie Haley,
Fryeburg Town Manager