

Catherine (Cat) Macri
Steep Falls
LD 676

April 3, 2025

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

My name is Cat Macri. I live in Steep Falls, Maine, a village in Standish, and I am the Library Director for the Soldiers Memorial Library in Hiram, Maine. I have lived in Standish for 25 years and have used the Mountain Division Trail many times. It would be wonderful if all the towns along the Mountain Division Trail could be connected through the Rail-to-Trail system, as was voted on in 2021, making the trail accessible from Portland to the New Hampshire border.

Getting our communities outside and moving has been proven to improve mental health and physical well-being. This would make this accessible for so many more people without the means to travel to the trailheads.

I strongly support LD 676 because:

In 2021, Maine DOT's Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC) voted 11:1 for converting 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 or Letters of support for LD404.

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.

Cat Macri
Resident
Steep Falls, Maine.