

132nd Legislature - Transportation Committee Testimony - LD 956
Sunrise Trail Coalition Testimony
April 4, 2025

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

My name is Alvion Kimball from Orland Maine, the president of the Sunrise Trail Coalition. I urge you to support LD 956, a resolve directing the Maine DOT to implement the recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC). We need to connect Ellsworth, Machias, the rest of Maine, and the East Coast Greenway to Calais and Canada via the Down East Sunrise Trail, (DEST).

The Down East Sunrise Trail is the unpaved spine of DownEast Maine and the longest off-road multi use trail section of the East Coast Greenway between Key West, FL and almost Calais, Maine. The DEST has long been a destination for cyclists, hikers, skiers, snowshoers and off-road vehicle enthusiasts. The completion of the DEST will have a positive and measurable impact on the health, welfare and economy of DownEast Maine and the communities it passes through. Completing it will provide an additional alternative to the carriage roads on Mount Desert Island and can help reduce congestion at Acadia National Park.

Supporting LD 956, the Calais Branch RUAC, and completing the DEST will promote outdoor recreation, alternative modes of transportation, expand access to nature, and connect communities. It will support Maine's vision of a connected network of multi-use and active transportation trails within Maine, connected to our neighbors, and welcoming to all.

Completing the DEST and East Coast Greenway to Maine will be a major milestone for Maine. It will be part of your legacy as the Transportation Committee that endorsed it. Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 956

Thank you,

Alvion R. Kimball
Sunrise Trail Coalition

www.sunrisetrail.org

C: (207) 902-2240

PO Box 92, Hancock, ME 04640

Alvion Kimball
Sunrise Trail Coalition
LD 956

Thank you for the extensive work you do on behalf of our Communities. I invite all committee members who would like to hike, bike, or ride on the Down East Sunrise Trail in 2025 to give me call or text at (207) 902-2240. Cheers, Alvion