

Ellen Fogg
Naples, Maine
LD 676

Dear Transportation Committee:

I write to urge you to vote NO on LD 676!

I strongly object to ripping up the Mountain Division tracks between Standish and Fryeburg to build only a trail. The ability to run freighter and passenger trains on the tracks must be maintained. There is a viable railroad company standing by, willing and able to maintain the tracks NOW. They have a proven track record! They hope to start with running freighter across this line.

This is not a trail until rail project as promoted by the trail advocates. Ripping up the rail virtually assures that it is not financially feasible to rip up the trail later and lay new rails!!

This project is a big investment and only makes sense to build the trail beside the rails as has been done already at each end of this 31-mile stretch! See attached photos from the Mountain Division Trail website!!

The Maine owned railbed is grandfathered next to Sebago Lake and could NOT be replaced with a trail in this environmentally sensitive area. So the trail would have to deviate from the rails in this area anyway, leaving the rails as is.

I do not object to connecting this trail. I object to “providing a one-time allocation to go towards the Replacement of the tracks on the 31 miles of the Rail Corridor between the towns of Fryeburg and Standish!”

This is an unwise expenditure for a single use as a trail. This trail should be built to run in conjunction with the Rails. Conway Scenic Railroad could assure that trains will be running on these tracks! The best of both worlds - Rails With Trails! Investing in future development along these Maine owned tracks as is done successfully in NH already.

Please vote NO on LD 676!!