

Margaret and Peter Zack
Porter
LD 676

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

We are writing this letter to express our strong support for the passage of LD 676,
"An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory
Council".

Years ago, we were involved in a small school in West Baldwin ME and we
remember well the children climbing the jungle gym when they heard the train,
because from that height they could see the train pass by. They, and we, thrilled at
train transportation, although it was only cargo being transported on the Mountain
Division line. Some time in the 1980's those trains ceased and have not returned. We
have gone forty years without the trains. Those rails are no longer viable. Whether the
area becomes again a train track, or not, those old tracks must be removed. Now we
have an opportunity to use those tracks for a different purpose, a public, multi-use
trail. What a wonderful opportunity to use the trail now as we wait for the day-maybe
in some far off future-for trains to return.

We have enjoyed using the parts of the Mountain Division Trail that have been
completed, in the Fryeburg area and the Standish-Windham area. We bicycle those
trails and have brought others to the trails to enjoy a bike ride or a stroll. Expanding
the trails provides a trail closer to our home and also offers opportunities for more
extensive rides.

In the spring of 2022 we took two months to go car camping across the country and
back. We took our bicycles and sampled numerous rail trails en route. Each trail was
unique and held its own beauty. The trails were well used with bicyclists as well as
walkers. A sense of community was created. People gathered for meals along the trail
and enjoyed side visits along the trails. The economic benefits to the local
communities were obvious.

We thank the committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote
"Ought to Pass"