

April 29, 2025

Senator Nangle, Rep. Crafts, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee,

I am writing to express the Mid-Maine Chamber's strong support for the LD 1612, *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Solicit Proposals for the Utilization of Unused State-owned Railroad Lines*. The reasons for our support are simple: Mid-Maine Chamber wants to expand tourism and job opportunities within our region and the state of Maine, and we believe that one of the ways that climate change can be positively impacted is by the expansion of passenger rail to the Bangor region. In regard to tourism, closed loop rail systems attract individuals to a region thereby boosting that region's economy and creating jobs, benefiting the surrounding businesses in that area. There could be other sports tourism benefits as well with the introduction of rail bikes.

Moreover, Mid-Maine Chamber is a supporter of trails systems. It believes that rail and trails can coexist – one does not need to be destroyed in order for the other to occur. In the greater Waterville area, we enjoy over 50 miles of trail systems that Mid-Maine Chamber regularly promotes and appreciates.

Again, Mid-Maine Chamber supports and asks for your backing of LD 1612. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kimberly N. Lindlof
President & CEO