

Pownal Phil

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Phillip Richards I am a Pownal resident and owner of a property abutting the Maine tracks near Pineland Business Park. I am testifying in support of **LD 406 Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads.**

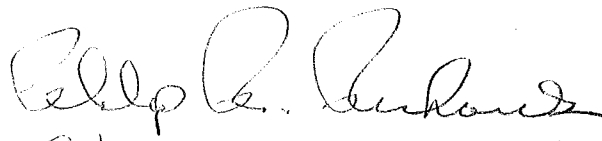
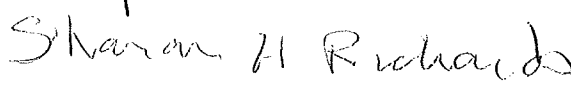
It was brought to my attention that a group of bike riders and trail users want to convert the railroad that abuts my property into a public trail. I am opposed to this.

I have always considered my property to be an ideal location for a train station. I have been approached by developers offering to develop my land as a train station and housing. We are in serious discussions. I think a passenger train station within walking distance to Pineland Business Park would be very good.

Not once have I been contacted by anyone wanting to make this land a trail. I do not want a public trail crossing my property. I think the people wanting this have intentionally left people like me out of the discussions because they know this will reduce the value of my property. This bill LD 406 will allow everyone to discuss how to use this state railroad and will allow plans for a train station at my property to be heard.

Please vote to support LD 406 and let's have some open discussions and real answers to what this railroad can be used for.

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