



Stacy Brenner  
Senator, District 30

THE MAINE SENATE  
131st Legislature

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Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Stacy Brenner in support of LD 1450, "An Act to Fund the  
Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council"  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation  
May 18, 2023

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Senator Stacy Brenner and I represent all the residents of Senate District 30, which encompasses most of Scarborough and all of Gorham, including a 5 mile section of the Mountain Division Trail. I am a proud co-sponsor of LD 1450, "An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council."

In 2003, the Mountain Division Alliance, the Maine DOT and the Town of Gorham coordinated efforts to make 5 miles of trail available for a variety of public recreational uses. The Town of Gorham has reported record use since the start of the pandemic, which is indicative of how much the community enjoys this trail as a whole.

This ambitious and visionary project, when complete, will be the continuation of a trail that allows Maine residents and visitors to travel from Portland to the border of New Hampshire, through some of the most scenic places in Southern Maine. This trail will be a state treasure. Whether you opt for an hour every day to walk your dog or a 2 day round-trip bike ride, this trail has the potential to create local and long distance outdoor experiences for folks of all abilities.

The potential for economic development along the trail is expansive. Between lodging, equipment rentals, food and beverage necessities and educational experiences, towns along the route will have more opportunities to house businesses that can serve the people who enjoy the trail.

Let's not allow this invaluable resource—that is already state-owned—to go to waste. Let's develop this corridor of land into a thriving trail for all to enjoy now and for future generations. This is the kind of trail people come from far and wide to experience. I urge you to vote 'Ought to Pass' and support outdoor recreational opportunities as an economic force for the State of Maine.

Thank you for your time.