

LD 676

My name is Rita Couture, I was born in Portland, Maine, and I'm a resident of Buxton, Maine.

The Conway Scenic Railroad has expressed interest in running trains on the Mountain Division. Restoring the Mountain Division will improve service for Maine's customers, help reinvigorate Maine's economy, and reduce my taxes. If the state were to tear up the tracks for a walking trail, which Maine already has plenty of, Maine's taxpayers would have to pay for the rail removal, walking trail installation, and walking trail maintenance. With the Conway Scenic Railroad leasing the line, Maine would have more spending money for its budget.

Allowing the Conway Scenic Railroad to lease the Mountain Division will directly improve the transportation industry in Maine. Introducing competition in *any* industry will push the companies involved to improve service for their customers.

David Swirk of the Conway Scenic Railroad is willing to invest in Maine's economy by reviving the Mountain Division, and serving Maine's rural communities along this line, as well as customers across the state and country.

Thank you committee members, and please vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 676.