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April 4, 2025

Senator Tim Nangle, Senate Chair
Representative Lydia Crafts, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Re: Oppose LD 676

Under Chapter 615: STATE RAILROAD PRESERVATION ACT Subchapter 1:
RAILROAD PRESERVATION, ASSISTANCE AND ACQUISITION Legislation submitted
under this section must include language stating that any track removal or other change for
nonrail use is considered interim in nature and that the rail corridor will be preserved for future
rail use as provided under this act.

Since Conway Scenic Railroad is requesting a lease for immediate rail use, it is ludicrous for the
State of Maine to provide even \$500 to remove any tracks on the Mountain Division when there
is a proposal to use the rail corridor. The proposal promises immediate economic development
with requests for freight service from businesses along the corridor, and future potential rail
passenger service. None of this is possible unless the rail stays in place.

Since rail removal and replacement with a trail is estimated to cost upwards of a million dollars a
mile, it makes no sense fiscally for this appropriation bill unless it is amended to specify
construction of rail with trail, as already exists in two sections of the line, in Fryeburg and
Wyndham and Standish.

Respectfully,

Peter Cole, President
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