



Stacy Brenner
Senator, District 30

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Co-sponsor testimony of Senator Stacy Brenner in support of LD 676, An Act to Fund the
Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
April 4, 2025**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts 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. Thank you so much for your time this afternoon. I am in front of you today as a proud co-sponsor of LD 676, 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.

This trail has long pleased the community, and the Town of Gorham has reported record use since the start of the pandemic.

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 with New Hampshire, through some of the most scenic spaces of Southern Maine. It will be a state treasure.

Whether you opt for an hour every day to walk your dog, a roll with your wheelchair bound loved one, or a 2-day round trip bike ride, this trail has the potential to meet local and long distance outdoor experiences for folks of many different abilities.

The potential for economic development along the trail is expansive and worth studying. Between lodging and equipment rentals, food and beverage opportunities and educational experiences, the capacity for towns along the way to house businesses that can serve users of the trail is exciting to envision.

The land for this trail is currently owned by the state. The dormant rail system will mostly remain in place for a potential time when it makes sense for it to be revitalized. Until then, let's not let this already state-owned resource 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.



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I urge this committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 676 and to support outdoor recreational opportunities as an economic driver for the State of Maine. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time.

Stacy Brenner
State Senator, District 30