

January 10, 2022

Carrabassett Region chapter,
New England Mountain Bicycle Association
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Testimony in Support of LD 1835
An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Storm Water Management
To Provide an Exemption for Mountain Bicycle Trails.

I am writing on behalf of the Carrabassett Region chapter of the New England Mountain Bicycle Association (CRNEMBA) to provide recommendation to the Environmental and Natural Resource Committee to issue an ‘ought to pass’ report on this bill.

CRNEMBA was founded in 2010 to advocate for development of a world class trail riding facility in our region. Working with our partners the Town of Carrabassett Valley, Maine Huts & Trails and Sugarloaf Corporation since that time we have developed a worthy destination, acknowledged as one of the best in New England with over 80 miles of user specific trail corridors. The significant resources and expertise expended over this period has benefitted users of all ages and abilities, provided significant economic impact to the rural area, and have proven to provide a ‘trickle down’ effect on visitations to smaller trail networks throughout the State.

Partnering with the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, we strive to fund and develop a new significant expansion of the network into the Crocker Mountain Unit lands of Carrabassett Valley with over 20 miles of modern bicycle trails. Allowing this project, and other future projects of significant scope, exemption specifically pertaining to square footage of impervious surface will align our user group with others in the recreation and forest product industries.

NEMBA and the bicycle industry and riders we represent are fortunate, respectful and enthusiastic around the future of our sport in the great State of Maine. As the products of the Northern Forest economies are evolving, the vast green spaces spanning private, municipal and State owned lands provide opportunity for diversification unique to the greater region. 2022 finds the industry in an unprecedented growth, providing opportunity for new developments to benefit communities across the State. Not only will this particular rule exemption benefit our own volunteer run, non – profit organization, we consider it to provide opportunities for other recreational advocates whom choose to professionally develop significant trail resources in the future.

Sincerely,

Joshua B Tauses