

Testimony in Support of LD 1133
An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws
Victor Langelo, Topsham Maine
April 29, 2021

Dear Senator Diamond, Representative Martin, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

I am Victor Langelo a resident of Topsham, Maine. I am in support of LD 1133 as it relates to the state rail corridor advisory council . The state has many unused rail corridors which represent a valuable unused asset. Some will undoubtedly be returned to active rail use as the state grows its transportation system while battling climate change. However, there are others that will remain idle for decades to come if in fact they are ever economically feasible.

These corridors are a valuable asset and should be put to some use for the citizens Maine. In fact, having a corridor being actively used would help insure its upkeep as more people would have a stake in its maintenance. Rather than having a valuable asset deteriorate from inattention, alternative uses would improve the economic vitality of area around the corridor by attracting people to visit and reside nearby.

The advisory council process defined in LD 1133 will provide an equitable process for all stakeholders to come together and determine the best use of particular corridors. This is a commonsense approach that appeals to the vast majority of Mainers. I urge the committee to support LD 1133 with an "ought to pass" committee report.

Thanks for you attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor J. Langelo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.