

## LD 1370 "An Act to Establish Trail UNTIL Rail Corridors"

Good Afternoon ... Senator Diamond, Representative Martin and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

My name is Art Bell, and I represent House District #47, comprising of Yarmouth, Chebeague & Long Island.

I am here today to introduce LD 1370 ... "An Act to Establish Trail Until Rail Corridors".

As we have all seen during this past year, there has been a craving for local community. And one way we have found to satisfy that craving ... and its been a reawakening across America ... is for outdoor recreation, in particular bike and pedestrian trails usage.

And just like we have seen across America, Maine has miles of abandoned rail corridors that are lying dormant. These corridors are state-owned public resources that are serving no current public service.

So LD 1370 is simply connecting these two premises ... a pent-up demand for local recreational opportunities AND miles of valuable assets lying fallow. LD 1370 simply authorizes the use of these rail corridors as multi-use, repurposed recreational trails. These corridors are "shovel-ready" projects that both Federal & local funding can be united to support this initiative.

Specifically LD 1370 identifies 4 trail corridors that have not been used for train service for many, many years. Passage of this bill does not request any new funding for trail construction; it simply authorizes the use of these corridors as trails. The four trail corridors will combine with existing rail trails like the highly popular Eastern Trail to form a network of multi-use recreation trails across Maine.

This is a Win Win. Satisfying the public's desire for local community outdoor recreation and putting valuable assets to work.

I enthusiastically ask that you vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1370.

"Let Unused Trail Corridors be Used as Trails".

Art Bell  
ME House Distric #47

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