

Sue Ellen Bordwell
Casco Bay Trail Alliance

Testimony in Support of LD1370
An Act to Establish Trail Until Rail Corridors

Good afternoon Senator Diamond, Representative Martin and Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Sue Ellen Bordwell. As a resident of Yarmouth and president of the Casco Bay Trail Alliance, I speak in support of LD1370. Our vision is a network of trails connecting 13 towns from Portland to Lewiston Auburn to Topsham and back to Portland through Brunswick, Freeport, Yarmouth, Cumberland, and Falmouth.

Why is LD 1370 important? The potential of this network as an economic and tourism driver is without limit. It has the ability to provide local recreation while creating regional active transportation.

This network vision relies on being able to re-purpose the unused St. Lawrence and Atlantic rail corridor as a trail. This allows for the expansion of passenger rail service to Lewiston-Auburn, Waterville, Bangor, and Montreal on still-active rail lines. Once built, this network will connect to many transportation modes: trains, buses, inter and intra-state highways, southern Maine ferry services and trails.

LD 1370, when it becomes law, is the first step in bringing the Casco Bay Trail to reality. Passage of LD 1370 will be the opportunity to get us to a shovel ready position to take advantage of funds when they become available.

A vision map is attached to my written testimony.

On behalf of the Casco Bay Trail Alliance, I urge you to pass LD 1370.

Submitted by: Sue Ellen Bordwell
President, Casco Bay Trail

CASCO BAY TRAIL SYSTEM

