



**Testimony of Carrie Kinne of North Yarmouth, Maine**

**in Support of LD 1370**

**An Act To Establish Trail until Rail Corridors**

**May 18, 2021**

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

I am, Carrie Kinne, testifying today on behalf of the Merrymeeting Trailblazers, an active group supporting the creation of the Merrymeeting Trail, in support of LD 1370.

For over a decade, members of the communities of Topsham, Bowdoinham, Richmond, and Gardiner have been gathering together and working to find a way to use a long-unused 26-mile stretch of railroad corridor, known as the Lower Road, as a trail. The Merrymeeting Trail would connect all four downtown village areas, running for miles along the Kennebec River, and joining the Kennebec River Rail Trail to the north and the Brunswick Bike Path in the south to form an incredible alternative transportation opportunity, an amazing economic driver, and an unparalleled community asset. This project is supported by all four towns and over 400 people and businesses in the community, and was designated a "Trail of Statewide Significance" by Maine DOT.

By authorizing the use of four long-dormant state-owned rail corridors for use as multi-use trails, this bill represents a critical step forward for active transportation in Maine. Trails bring many economic, health, and environmental benefits to communities, and are a major attraction for visitors and new residents alike. That's a big part of what has driven so much local support for the Merrymeeting Trail, and it is why I urge you to vote yes on LD 1370.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Sincerely,

Carrie Kinne  
Merrymeeting Trails