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Bangor

When I was born in 1989, Maine had a vision to expand rail service after purchasing over two hundred miles of railroad from Guilford Industries in the late 1980's. It is now 2021, I have aged 31 years, and Maine still has not invested in any major way to expand passenger rail despite having the majority support of both republican and democrat voters. Mainers have been in favor of extending rail service to meet the economic needs of central and northern Maine, so why has the Maine Department of Transportation made zero progress during all this time?

This debate over what is the most effective form of transportation is over. Nations all across the world are embracing rail because, at its core, it connects distant economies closer than ever before, it minimizes carbon emissions, it promotes economic development, it alleviates poverty, it productively saves time and money for individuals and organizations, and, most importantly, the railroads of today lay down the foundations of transportation of the future. Bangor and northern Maine have been in a prime position to utilize rail to help boost their local economies, boost their tourism, assist their young people to enter the workforce, and to finally be included into the cultural and economic growth of the greater New England community. Despite the amazing feats rail has given communities across the USA, let alone the world, Maine's Department of Transportation appears to have no intention joining the world of the 21st Century.

Why on earth are we even thinking about passing such legislation that is so demonstrably insipid? This bill goes against all economic reasoning, and know that if this terrible bill passes my generation will be burdened with trying to fix this mess for years to come because we, the future of Maine, wholly oppose any kind of legislation that hinders rail. If any of you truly care about Maine's future, you should start listening to them. Vote ought not to pass LD 1370.