

**Written Testimony of Douglas Moore  
To the Committee on Transportation**

**Testimony in Support of LD 1370  
Delivered in Person on May 18, 2021**

Greetings Sen. Diamond, Representative Martin, and members of the Taxation Committee:

My name is Douglas Moore from Portland, Maine. I've been a resident of Maine for 35 years and, during that time, worked for L.L. Bean, Hannaford Bros., and IDEXX Labs.

I am submitting public testimony in support for LD 1370 – 'An Act to Establish Trail until Rail Corridors'.

I want to see this bill passed for the following reasons:

- It removes one of the biggest obstacles in 'Rail-to-Trail' conversions. Owners of rails (active railroads and inactive rails) are naturally very reluctant to have their rails converted irrevocably to trails. This is understandable as they don't know the future. This gives them the option to revert anytime (trail-to-rail). It is the best possible scenario for both parties (more trails for the users with options for the owners)
- The safest way to walk and bike all over our state is off-road, on trails like our many rail trails. Just three examples of our twenty rail-trails in Maine, are the 'Eastern Trail', the 'Down East Sunrise Trail', and the 'Mountain Division Trail'.
- Walking and biking have become national, healthy, public recreation for families that improve the quality of our lives (as well as the lives of all the tourists who we host year around) and reduce our healthcare costs.
- We need to continue to enhance our eco-assets. They are the big draw in Maine. They are clean and very efficient in attracting local, as well as international, tourists. Our rail trails are some of our most highly prized eco-assets.

This bill will be a good investment for Maine for the following reasons:

- Our assets (natural beauty like our trails, parks, environment, clean water and air, and scenery make-up our quality of life. These are the jewels of Maine. They are why people want to live and vacation here. They are income, property values, and a number of other benefits. The more we can provide and enhance our eco-friendly assets the better off we all are. There is no downside.
- Outdoor recreation in Maine fuels over \$3 Billion a year for Maine's economy and expanding rail-trails are a critical way to grow that. This is an investment in our future and the future of all our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

For these reasons, I urge you to support LD 1370. Thank you.

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Please see my document 'Bill\_1370\_Testimony.docx' (submitted).