

William Barmby
Yarmouth
LD 1170

April 12th, 2023

To: Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Honorable members of the committee

From: William Barmby

Re: Testimony in Support of Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters, LD 1170

My name is Will and I live in Yarmouth.

I am writing as a student to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1170.

The possibilities of public transportation are magnificent. The Downeaster Amtrak is great. But I have a few things to say:

Behavioral economics tells us that people don't always behave rationally. Even when a transportation system is great, if someone already has a mode of transport that is "fine," they might not adjust their habits. Sometimes all people need is a nudge. It's almost always useful, therefore, for a government department to spend some time researching how to make people aware of and inspired to use the resources the department provides to the public.

The Amtrak could certainly be improved. A review of the current state of affairs strikes me as very reasonable. Let's identify how to make the Amtrak the best it can be! Let's inspire people to reduce their climate footprint. Let's show people that the government can work.

Respectfully submitted,
William Barmby