

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Ed Benjamin, I am a South Portland resident and owner of a 14-acre train station location on the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad in Portland. I am testifying in support of **LD 406 Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads.**


It was brought to my attention that a group of bike riders and trail users want to convert the railroad that abuts my property into a public trail. I am opposed to this. I have always considered my property to be an ideal location for a train station and parking area to relieve the problems Portland has in parking and congestion.

I have been approached by developers offering to develop my land as a train station. We are in serious discussions on it yet I have not once been contacted by anyone wanting to make this land a trail.

I do not want a public trail crossing my property. I think the people wanting this have intentionally left people like me out of the discussions because they know this will reduce the value of my property. This bill LD 406 will allow everyone to discuss how to use this state railroad and will allow my plans for a train station to be heard.

Please vote to support LD 406 and let's have some open discussions and real answers to what this railroad can be used for.

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