

Skylar Cook
Portland
LD 1170

April 12th, 2023

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

From: Skylar Cook

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

My name is Skylar go to school at Waynflete in Portland.

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

As a junior in high school who is starting to look at colleges, Boston is a point of interest for me. There are so many schools, businesses, and opportunities in Boston that I would not be able to get if I stayed in Maine. Having a line of transportation that is easy, affordable, and quick is very important to me and a lot of my friends who make regular trips to Boston. Below I've provided a few other reasons why I support this bill and you should too.

-The Downeaster is already vital to many who travel from southern Maine to the Boston area for work and life. However, many commuters and employers are unable to take advantage of passenger rail for day-to-day commuting. We have an opportunity to meet the needs of a broader and more diverse population of travelers and commuters.

-Transportation is essential for the everyday lives of Mainers. It is a necessity to have efficient, clean, attractive, and convenient public transit systems. This study would determine how those standards can be reached using passenger rail service in Maine.

-Transportation is Maine's largest source of carbon emissions. According to the Maine Won't Wait climate strategy, the transportation sector accounts for 54% of our emissions. To reach our climate action goals as a state, we must promote low-carbon transportation solutions such as passenger rail.

As a teenager who will soon be an adult, it is important to me to have transportation that contributes to lessening our carbon emissions. Knowing that our transportation in Maine is supporting a healthy environment allows me to feel a little bit better about protecting the wonderful nature we have in Maine.

Respectfully submitted,
Skylar Cook