

Nynke Ham  
Bar Harbor  
LD 1170

4/6/2023

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

From: Nynke Ham

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

My name is Nynke Ham and I live in/go to school Bar Harbor/College of the Atlantic. I am writing as a student to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1170.

Taking the train does not need to be motivated only by commuting time and financial savings. In the Netherlands, where I am from, many employers sponsor their employees to take the train since it is a comfortable work environment. They experience less stress than while driving, and are able to use their commute as a little bit of work time. By working together with the employers near the Boston and Portland train stations, and improving some train cars to have an office-like work environment, more people will be able to afford to take a train that might be slightly slower than driving. Still, the times will need to improve. Right now it takes 3h20min to take the train from Brunswick, and it takes 2h30min to drive during peak times. Additionally, there is no train service during peak times, which would be a key focus point.

Apart from increasing the numbers and the revenue of train services, it is also highly important that train service improvements are explored further to lift more people out of mobility poverty and to lower strains on the climate. Mobility poverty means that people do not have the means to get to where they want to go. As a student in rural Maine, I experience this often since I do not own a car, and am fully reliant on public transportation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nynke Ham