



## CITY OF BANGOR

### Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

#### Testimony in Support of LD 860 – “An Act to Identify the Railroad Lines from Portland to Bangor as an Extended Major Corridor and to Fund a Feasibility Study”

April 14, 2023

Sen. Chipman, Rep. Williams, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. I am Deborah Laurie, City Manager of the City of Bangor, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 860, “An Act to Identify the Railroad Lines from Portland to Bangor as an Extended Major Corridor and to Fund a Feasibility Study.”

Transportation is the key to continued prosperity and a necessary balance of travel options to Bangor, Maine’s third largest city. As the City continues to invest in our transit system, and other measures to become more climate friendly, we believe rail is an option worth evaluating as it could be directly linked to existing transportation options. This would allow individuals in the Bangor area and beyond to connect with other cities in Maine, increasing tourism and dependable transportation options for those without private vehicles. A passenger-ready rail line to Bangor would also support improved freight movement increasing economic development opportunities and allowing for Maine products to be competitively exported.

We have shown our support for studies to improve transit through our monetary support of LD 227. It is now time for the State to move forward with a feasibility study allowing Bangor to receive “corridor designation” so that federal funds can be utilized to make Bangor and the surrounding region truly integrated with the rest of the nation. We believe the feasibility study will better demonstrate the potential benefits and costs of expanding rail access.

On behalf of the Bangor City Council, I urge you to pass LD 860 to identify the railroad lines from Portland to Bangor as an extended major corridor and to fund a feasibility study.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

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