

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Max McDonough, I am a resident of Orono, and I'm writing in Support of LD.1170 Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters, LD 1170. I urge you to vote to pass this piece of legislation. I am an avid supporter of public transit, as it provides an option to get from one place to another efficiently, economically, and sustainably when it's done right. When traveling I use trains frequently. I have taken the Downeaster multiple times and my experience has been great. I can relax and do something else with my time rather than drive down the road for hours. Not everyone has to take the train but there is no reason to not give everyone the option. Increasing frequency of rail service will,

- Create a **more accessible service to the public**, making it easier for commuters, tourists, young people, and anyone who cannot drive or does not have a car.
- Expanded passenger rail is a **safer way to get to where you want to go**, especially during winter and inclement weather.
- Frequent service will ease traffic on the road, take cars off of city streets, and create **greater economic opportunities** at every city and town with a stop.

Everyone does not want to drive, people should have another option. It is now known that car infrastructure of the past is expensive to maintain, expand, and is bankrupting cities and towns around the nation. Let's take a step now to create a more fiscally sustainable, clean, and safer future for our state.

Respectfully,

-Max McDonough