

Dominick Rizzo
Bangor
LD 860

Greetings!

The testimony being submitted is regarding LD 860 - An Act to Identify the Railroad Lines from Portland to Bangor as a Major Corridor and to Fund a Feasibility Study.

As residents of Bangor, my partner and I are in full support of bringing passenger rail service to our Historic Queen City for the following reasons:

Ease of Traveling; Creating Social Equity; Retaining and Attracting Younger Residents and Families who, by choice or not, do not own a vehicle; Fighting Climate Change; Physical and Mental Wellness; Reducing Traffic Congestion; Creating Better Active Transportation in our Towns; as well as Creating Economic Growth for the cities of Bangor, Augusta, Waterville and their surrounding regions.

The car should only be an optional instrument of freedom that should not be a required prosthetic device.

I (Dominick) grew up in New York City where I fortunately got to enjoy the benefits of the ease of traveling by having access to every form of transportation. It is a very fair, equitable system that works. If there was an issue with one form of transportation, you could always rely on having other options to help get you to your destination.

My partner and I would definitely use the service and drive less, not just to get around Maine but also to take it beyond to visit family/friends in New York and elsewhere. In addition, as more Bangor region residents are referred to medical facilities in Portland and Boston, having a pretty reliable transportation system year-round including during the sometimes-harsh winter months takes a big chunk of stress out of an extremely stressful time in one's life. If any of you have traveled I-95 in the winter when roads have suddenly iced over, you know what I mean.

Please support LD860!

We thank you for this opportunity!

Sincerely,

Dominick A. Rizzo and Steven J. Bouchard
Bangor, Maine