

City of Portland | City Council

Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: April 12, 2023

Re: LD 406

Testimony in Support of LD 406 “Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads”

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland’s Legislative/Nominating Committee in Support of LD 406, Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State of Maine-Owned Railroads.

Based on the City of Portland’s recent involvement with multiple rail-related studies and initiatives, including passenger rail feasibility to Lewiston and the Portland-to-Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council, it has become clear that a guiding vision of the future use of critical state corridors is necessary, for everything from passenger transportation to freight to active transportation connections.

The actions included by this legislation would provide the high-level analysis needed to move the State of Maine on a path toward sustainable community development and away from auto-centric planning; this shift is essential to an effective, forward-looking course as we navigate climate and housing crises.

Thank you for your consideration.