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May 18, 2023

Senator Ben Chipman, Chair
Representative Lynne A. Williams, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 404 - *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council*

Dear Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

This letter is to express Maine CDC's support for LD 404, *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council and provide information on the potential impact of the proposed legislation, if enacted.*

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements, to remove 31 miles of state-owned inactive existing railroad track in the Town of Standish and the Town of Fryeburg and replace the track with an interim 10-foot-wide bicycle and pedestrian trail, surfaced with either pavement or stone dust on the existing rail bed. We further understand that the MDOT is currently working with the Portland Water District (PWD) to relocate a section of trail to a location further from Sebago Lake, the primary drinking water source for the PWD who serves drinking water to over 200,000 people in 11 Maine communities.

The 1986 amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act provided for the establishment of state source water protection programs to protect public drinking water supplies from contamination. Source water protection, a proactive approach to protecting water quality, quantity, and security at the drinking water source, is a highly efficient and cost-effective way to help ensure a safe and reliable drinking water supply.

Studies in Maine and nation-wide have shown the costs of prevention and planning to be significantly lower than remediation and/or finding a new drinking water supply. Source protection also reduces risk to the supplier and customer. Drinking water sources are vulnerable to contamination and other threats from land-based activities near the drinking water source. A basic tenet of source protection is to keep potential sources of contamination and other threats away from the drinking water source.

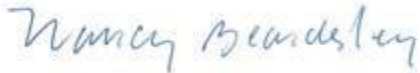
The section of trail that is proposed to be relocated under the MDOT and PWD collaboration lies along the Sebago Lake shoreline near the drinking water intake, and within the two-mile "no

bodily contact zone” which was established as part of the PWD charter authority by the Maine Legislature to protect the drinking water source.

In summary, the Maine CDC supports the PWD-MDOT collaboration to relocate this section of trail to help keep sources of contamination and other potential threats further from the drinking water source and intake and respectfully recommends this bill ought to pass.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Maine CDC is available to provide additional details for the Committee’s consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Beardsley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Beardsley, Acting Director
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention