



## Town of Windham

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March 3, 2023

Maine Department of Transportation  
16 SHS  
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

To whom it may concern,

We are writing on behalf of the Town of Windham to indicate our support of LD404: Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council. We recognize that 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 to 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.

Having seen the benefits of the Mountain Division Trail in Windham since its establishment in 2003, we are most excited about the possibilities of connecting the east with the west through this potential trail expansion. Knowing that the Rail Use Advisory Committee met throughout 2021 and 2022 to complete its report and made this recommendation based on their findings, we feel confident this is this most feasible way to accomplish this longtime goal of the Mountain Division Alliance. The 5-mile section of the trail from Windham to Standish is used quite regularly on a year-round basis prior by people of all ages, and includes walkers, runners, bicyclists, rollerbladers, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers.

As a long-time community partner of the Mountain Division Alliance, Windham shares its mission to create a contiguous 50-mile trail along the Mountain Division Corridor. This resurgence of energy and collective interest among the nine communities on the corridor is promising for our community and the region as a whole and we look forward to seeing advancement of the Alliance goals.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first is a stylized signature, and the second is "Linda Brooks".

Barry Tibbetts, Town Manager

Linda Brooks, Parks and Recreation Director