

Testimony in Support of LD 404



Many Trails. One Voice.
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Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Silvia Cassano. I am speaking today on behalf of the Maine Trails Coalition, a state-wide, all volunteer organization formed in 2019 to champion the establishment, use, and stewardship of trails in Maine. We have supporters all over the state and are part of a growing movement dedicated to advancing the trails movement in Maine.

MTC supports **LD 404** the resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council. We are grateful for the Rail Use Advisory process and advocated for the creation of such a council. The near unanimous opinion (11-1) to authorize a trail on this unused rail corridor and support of the communicates along the corridor of the trail and extension speaks for itself.

The MTC supports this multi-use trail project and corridor as it is one piece to the vision laid out in our Maine Active Transportation Arterials document, which is referenced in the newly released, Maine Statewide Active Transportation Plan. The Mountain Division Corridor is an important piece of this vision to connect ***25 largest municipalities and over 2/3rds of Maine's population by interconnected off-road, multi-use trails.***

Please reach out to us if you would like to learn more. Thank you all for your time and for the opportunity to comment today.

Silvia Cassano
Project Coordinator
Maine Trails Coalition

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Carrie Kinne and Gabe Perkins. The signature 'Carrie' is written in a cursive script, followed by a space and the initials 'GPK' in a similar cursive style.

Carrie Kinne and Gabe Perkins
Co-Coordinator, Maine Trails Coalition