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LD 404

I am writing in my testimony for LD 404- in support of resolving, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council in addition to also supporting the LD 1450- Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council. I currently live in the area of Littleton, NH where we recently had some of our rail lines torn up because a bill passed to enable the rails to be used for recreation rather than transportation/ freight like originally intended. Many of the individuals from the town that I have spoken to would have rather seen the option of recreational use as well as transportation use, had that been given an option for us. From reading the Summary and Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council pdf, although the cost of creating a multiuse rail is expensive upfront, in the long term the revenue coming back would prove to be exponentially greater than that of the cost in the beginning. With the mention of connecting the rail lines through Vermont, New Hampshire as well as Maine would increase more revenue as it is getting more tourism into the state if there were to be a train running as mentioned by John T. Sutton in Appendix A. In addition to the bills above that I am in support of, I am against bill LD 209 because I believe that keeping current infrastructure that could be come more important in the near to distant future would be more beneficial than allocating funds to create something temporary rather than utilizing those funds towards a more permanent solution.