

The Town of Fryeburg

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May 18, 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

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

Dear Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Fryeburg to express support of LD 404. Fryeburg is lucky to have a 4-mile section of rail trail in our town. We see daily use of the trail throughout the seasons and while we have not conducted actual surveys, it certainly appears as though the use of the rail trail increases each year. It gets used by walkers, runners, bicyclists, cross country skiers, and snowmobilers. It has been the location of annual foot races and events that promote bicycle safety and is a source of pride for the Town.

Locally, we have been focusing on connectivity of recreational assets and businesses and this summer are going to be constructing a 1-mile portion of sidewalk that will lead from the rail trail to our village area which houses local shops and restaurants. It is very exciting to think that this notion of connectivity can expand to other towns in our region, allowing for increased recreational and economic opportunities for all towns.

The Town of Fryeburg was actively involved in all steps of the process undertaken by the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council and offers this continued stated recommendation that the "trail until rail" effort be implemented.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Katie Haley'.

Katie Haley
Town Manager