

Susy Kist
Portland
LD 404

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

My name is Susy Kist and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing to testify in strong support all the bills being heard today. I am in support of LD 209, which would allow the Department of Transportation to permit an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail on 26.5 miles of the inactive Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor, while preserving the corridor for future rail.

I am also in support of LD 404 to allow the Mountain Division corridor to become a trail & LD 1450 to help fund the building of the Mountain Division trail.

Having these rail trails through and near my community would be an incredible resource for me, my family, and my community. I believe the best use for these state-owned corridors is a trail and I support funding for trail systems such as these. Connected trails such as these will connect people to each other and to our natural places, providing a car-free alternative to get active outdoors and to get where we need to go.

I have used existing parts of these trails numerous times and they have SO many benefits to the Maine community. I'll list a couple here:

Provide alternative to commuting, getting to see friends, and enjoy natural areas by bike, skis, walking, roller blading, e-bike, you name it!

Re-use already developed and cleared land and access way.

Promote exercise in beautiful public corridor

Allow families to spend time outdoors in nature together

When I first visited the Mountain Division trail in Windham area I couldn't believe how peaceful and safe it was -- also the sense of community there was so positive. Living in Portland it is so close by, so so many others in Maine's most population dense area also will have the benefit of the continuation of this recreational resource. It is very exciting.

On a serious note, I feel it is absolutely critical that we immediately act on access ways, trails, paths that offer option to vehicular traffic. We absolutely have to reduce our use of fossil fuel burning vehicles and this is a tremendous way to do that.

Thank You for your service and for supporting this legislation.

Thank you,
Susy Kist