

Kim True
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LD 1750

Senator Chipman, Representative Crafts and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Kim Anderson True, and I reside in Freeport. I was the Founding Director of BikeMaine, a week long, annual bicycle event hosted by the Bicycle Coalition of Maine to develop bicycle tourism throughout Maine by promoting Maine's natural wonders, local foods, quiet roads, unique culture, and friendly people. I worked with communities and local businesses to prepare them for meeting the needs of bicycle tourists. I also served on the board of the National Bicycle Tour Directors Association, an organization of bike-tour directors across the country. Bicycle tourism is good for rural communities, because bicyclists need to purchase what they need for food and services as they travel through an area, and they tend to stay in an area longer than tourists traveling in cars. This means more money for the local economy. What Maine needs is safe places to ride. For this reason, I wholly support the interim use of the Berlin Subdivision corridor as a bike and pedestrian trail, as recommended by the Rail Use Advisory Council. Such a trail, a central part of the proposed, looped Casco Bay Trail, would be an exciting attraction for bicycle tourists throughout New England and the country. I urge you to support it. Thank you.