## Keith Case Yarmouth LD 511

Good afternoon, my name is Keith case. I live in Yarmouth Maine. The current disused railroad tracks pass right near my house to the center of Yarmouth. I was born and raised in Maine but spent 20 years in Cambridge and Somerville Massachusetts, where the rails to trails conversions from boston all the way up to Lexington through Somerville and Arlington have been completely transformative. They are loved and used all year long by people of all abilities. High schools use the trails for cycling clubs, safely away from traffic, parents walk children in strollers and more and more. More. They are open to all and everyone benefits from them. The economic development alongside the tracks can't be understated. Businesses have opened all along the pads, some even facing onto The path catering to people walking by. Sometimes these are bike specific but often they're coffee shops or stores, etc. It's an amazing opportunity to allow citizens of Maine du to be outside and get exercise at a safe way away from traffic, but could also be a tremendous opportunity for people who don't have cars or like to ride their bikes to work to be able to travel to other towns in a safe way without the use of cars, hopefully part of a transition away from a more Auto centric world. World, I highly encourage the command to pass this resolution so we can see the same benefits across the board and Joseph health enjoyment and the economy that other rails to trails projects have brought to their communities.