

Testimony in support of LD 511, "Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council"

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Transportation Committee, I am Victor Langelo a resident of Topsham. My wife and I visit Yarmouth often. We have used the Beth Condon Pathway in Yarmouth several times before dining in nearby restaurants. I would be nice to have a longer safe route we could bicycle while there.

I also belong to two area bicycle clubs, The Merrymeeting Wheelers and the Casco Bay Bicycle Club. Both clubs have current routes that could really use a trail in this corridor. A common weekend ride for the Wheelers is a loop that visits Freeport, Yarmouth, North Yarmouth, Pownal to Pineland Farms in New Gloucester. A trail in this corridor would be a safe off-road alternative in areas where the traffic can be heavy or very fast with narrow shoulders.

Of all the areas I commute by bicycle, finding a safe route from Freeport to Portland is difficult due to heavy traffic. The Berlin Subdivision corridor would be a huge improvement and an important first step in realizing the Casco Bay Trail vision of connecting Portland, Auburn, Lewiston and Brunswick.

I urge the committee to support LD 209.

Sincerely,

Victor Langelo