

William Nelson  
North Yarmouth  
LD 511

My name is William Nelson and have lived in North Yarmouth for the past 40 years. I am writing to urge the Transportation Committee to vote in support of LD 511 - the Casco Bay Trail.

I know from personal experience that many of my friends and neighbors that live in the communities along the trail will use it to recreate and commute - safely. Although now retired, I would often commute to my place of business in Scarborough (a distance of 26 miles - same distance as the CB Trail) along roads and the Eastern Trail. As you know, the Eastern Trail is not contiguous from South Portland to Scarborough. In 2016 while travelling on Highland Avenue (the section of the Eastern 'Trail' that is not contiguous) I was struck by a pick-up truck and suffered a broken back. When laying in the road unconscious a driver who witnessed the crash thought I was dead. Had I been able to complete my commute on a 'real' trail I know I would have made it to work unscathed.

As a resident of North Yarmouth I feel fortunate that my property abuts the very popular Knight's Pond Preserve. In fact, there is a trail on my property that folks use to access Knight's Pond. While the Town of North Yarmouth and the residents of North Yarmouth are both in support of the trail, I know that although the vast majority of my Cumberland friends are in support, the Town of Cumberland has yet to offer support. My understanding is that a few trail abutters - who have lived a long-time in Cumberland - are holding up support. Like those folks, I too am a long-time resident. But unlike them I actually have a trail on my property that is used by the public and has been for years.

The Casco Bay Trail will be a tremendous resource for Southern Maine. Please do all you can to make the trail a reality.

Thanks!

William Nelson  
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