



March 3, 2025

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
State House Rm126
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Support for LD 30; Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Regarding the Rail Line from Portland to Yarmouth

Senate Chair Tim Nangle, House Chair Lydia Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

I, Nathan Poore, Town Manager of the Town of Falmouth testify in support of LD 30.

LD30 seeks legislative approval to implement the interim conversion of the Berlin Subdivision Railroad Corridor to a pedestrian trail from Portland to Auburn, per the recommendation of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council and the Commissioner of Transportation.

The Town of Falmouth is supportive of this effort, as approximately 3.8 miles of the corridor lies within its municipal boundaries. Falmouth is committed to furthering active transportation projects that encourage more walking and cycling, as evidenced by the Town's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan and Bike Ped Plan, which includes policies that support regional coordination on transportation and connectivity via alternative modes.

Increasing pedestrian and bicycle mobility within the Town and the region via this rail corridor provides a healthy transportation alternative, provide greater connection to preserved natural spaces for recreation and respite, and create a safe travel corridor for users of all ages.

On October 23, 2023, the Falmouth Town Council unanimously adopted Resolution 47-2024 in support of implementing the Rail Use Advisory Committee (RUAC) and Maine DOT Commissioner recommendations on the Berlin Subdivision rail corridor.