

Patricia Regan
Lisbon Falls
LD 511

I'm contacting you in support of LD 511. Approximately 15,000 Mainers live within a half-mile radius of the Portland to Auburn rail corridor. I'm asking for your support of the 'resolve to implement the recommendation of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council.'

I'm a volunteer with the Casco Bay Trail Alliance and I strongly believe that creating an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail would be an economic and health benefit not only to the communities the trail touches, but also to communities in surrounding areas. The advisory council's report estimates that trail users could contribute \$3.5 million - \$5.3 million annually in consumer spending.

I belong to three walking groups: one based in Auburn, one based in Lisbon and one based in Brunswick. All of the groups meet weekly, all year long. We travel everywhere to walk; from the dike in Fort Fairfield to the Wiggly Bridge in York. The health benefits of walking and bicycling are undisputed.