

William Steinbock
Brunswick
LD 29

Dear members of the Committee on Transportation,

I am a resident of Brunswick writing to express my strong support for LD 29. This legislation is an incredible opportunity to transform the inactive rail corridor between Brunswick and Gardiner into a vibrant bicycle and pedestrian trail, thereby expanding recreational amenities while promoting public health and economic development.

Enhancing Community Connectivity and Recreation

The conversion of the dormant rail line into a multi-use trail offers an unparalleled opportunity to connect our communities. By linking Brunswick, Hallowell, and Gardiner, residents and visitors alike will have access to a safe, scenic pathway for walking, jogging, cycling, and other recreational activities. Such infrastructure fosters healthier lifestyles, strengthens community bonds, and provides accessible outdoor spaces for individuals of all ages. The proposed interim trail would connect to the existing 6.5 mile Kennebec River Trail thus expanding the existing network and providing even more Mainers with a way to pursue a safe and healthy lifestyle.

Economic Revitalization Through Sustainable Tourism

Trails of this nature have a proven track record of boosting local economies. They attract visitors, increase foot traffic to local businesses, and can spur the development of new enterprises catering to trail users. The proposed trail is poised to become a destination for fun and healthy activities.

Reflecting Community Input and Expert Recommendations

The Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council, comprising community members, stakeholders, and experts, meticulously evaluated the best use of this corridor. Their recommendation to establish a bicycle and pedestrian trail is rooted in comprehensive analysis and reflects the desires of our communities. Implementing their guidance ensures that the project meets local needs and maximizes public benefit. Additionally, promoting non-motorized transportation options aligns with our state's goals to reduce carbon emissions, lower vehicle miles traveled, and combat climate change.

LD 29 represents a visionary yet practical initiative that promises to enhance the quality of life in our communities and stimulate economic growth. I urge you to vote in favor of LD 29 and help create a healthier and better connected Maine. I look forward to seeing you on the trail!

Thank you for your consideration.

William Steinbock
Brunswick, Maine