

Dorothy Streett
Bowdoinham
LD 29

My name is Dorothy Streett and I am writing in support of LD 29. Having lived in Bowdoinham since 1986, I have long been aware of the valuable resource that is the rail line connecting our town to Topsham and Richmond. Once many years ago, I rode an excursion train from Richmond to Topsham and it was delightful to see the scenic environment surrounding the line as it runs through variable countryside. Unfortunately, that is probably one of the very few times that I have seen train activity on that line for many decades. One reason I live in Maine is because of its outdoor activities, and I have taken advantage of many walking/biking/cross country skiing trails that were formerly rail lines, including the Gardiner-Augusta portion of this same railroad. Further I have seen first hand that when dedicated trails are available, they get a great deal of use (the Brunswick and Lisbon trails are two in my immediate area). I would be thrilled to see the disused rail line connect Brunswick all the way to Gardiner. It would be good for the economies of the small towns along the way; it would offer the health benefits of exercise in a dedicated environment; and it would give citizens access to some hard-to-reach scenic areas along the way. I urge the committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 29 and bring this long anticipated idea to fruition. Thank you for your service on our behalf.