

Gregory Wiessner
Cumberland
LD 511

Good Day Committee:

I am a resident of Cumberland, ME, where I have lived for nearly 20 years. I am writing to respectfully request that the Transportation Committee to vote in support of LD 511.

As I travel throughout Maine, I am astounded by the lack of use of our existing infrastructure, which lies fallow and unused. Your support of an interim trail from Portland to Auburn will take advantage of existing, unused infrastructure to offer the communities along it with a safe, off-road, means transportation and recreation. It would improve public health through safe access to trails for exercise. It will protect the environment by allowing for self-propelled transportation. It would allow for connect to public transit along bus lines. As of now, the only way for me to access Portland or Lewiston/Auburn is to drive. There are no safe bike or walking routes. If we build this trail, I could take my bicycle or simply walk in either direction.

I have used off-road trails in other states and countries. Every time, the number of people I see using them for either transportation, walking, biking, wheelchair access, and stroller use is astounding. In Quebec City, we parked our car once, and for an entire week, only use the trail system for biking and walking to safely get everywhere, whether it be the grocery store, parks, hardware store, or restaurants. We did the same in Munich, Germany. The weather did not matter because the routes were safe from cars cutting us off in poor visibility.

With that as background, please vote “ought to pass.”

Gregory Wiessner