

Testimony in Support of LD 487

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation,

My name is Nicholas Alexander, and I am from Belgrade. I am also a student at Thomas College, working with the Maine Rail Group through the President's Innovation Challenge. I am writing to express my strong support for LD 487, which would require the state to apply for the Corridor Identification Program, a federal grant that would fully fund the planning process for an expansion of Maine's passenger rail system.

Expanding passenger rail service to connect Maine's largest downtown areas would be a game-changer for our state. Reliable rail transportation would increase economic opportunities, reduce traffic congestion, and provide a more environmentally friendly alternative to driving. Since the Corridor Identification Program would cover 100% of the planning costs, this is a smart, cost-effective step toward modernizing Maine's transportation infrastructure.

As a disabled adult looking to join the workforce in the Washington, D.C., area, having a passenger rail system in Maine would be a major help. Travel can be difficult for people with disabilities, and a reliable train system would provide a critical transportation option. It would make it easier for me—and many others—to access job opportunities, medical appointments, and community events without the challenges of long car rides or limited public transit options.

I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 487. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important initiative.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Alexander
Belgrade, Maine
Thomas College Student