

Patricia Barber
Hiram
LD 487

March 6th 2025

To: Chairman Nangle, Chairwoman Crafts and Committee members
From: Patty Barber Hiram Maine

Letter in support of LD 487 Resolve, Directing the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to Apply for Federal Funding for the Purpose of Identifying the Rail Corridor Connecting Portland to Orono as an Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor

Greetings,

I write in support of LD 487.

Not that long ago, trains serviced every town in Maine, connecting rural areas to the larger city centers. Our grandparents and parents could get any place they needed to go whether it was work, appointments, or visiting friends and relatives just by waiting at their local train station.

Freight railroads looking to maximize profits were successful in enable legislation in the 1970's that resulted in the formation of Amtrak, which would serve the important mandate of making sure all people had access to transportation options regardless of the ability to drive or own a vehicle wherever they may live.

Maine was successful in restoring passenger train service from Boston through Brunswick in the last few decades.

That's wonderful if you live in the affluent areas of the coast, but what if you live in Central, Western or Northern Maine? Are you somehow less worthy of transportation options?

This bill LD 487 would restart the conversation about how to restore passenger rail to the rest of our great state, and to all of the wonderful citizens of Maine.

The choices on where to spend our hard-earned tax dollars is a complicated and difficult one. Prioritization needs to be on essential services for all Mainers, especially enhancing their ability to work and contribute to the economy, and the compassionate need to care for family and community members who need help as they age or become sick.

Restoring the ability to travel is instrumental for these endeavors. It used to be that every family could own a car and be available to help those close to them with their needs. But more and more, this ability has been altered as less people can afford the high expense of a vehicle and families spread out in the quest to find opportunities.

As a result, the need for other transportation connections becomes more necessary. Rail based transportation serves that purpose, for all parts of Maine still retain that important rail infrastructure.

By supporting rail opportunities throughout Maine, we can show that renewing time honored ideas that brought Maine together can be utilized again.

Please support our families and communities by voting ought to pass on LD 487.

Thank You,
Patty Barber
Hiram