

Daniel Dore  
Bryant Pond  
LD 487

Legislators,

My name is Daniel Dore and I am writing in support of LD 487 directing NNEPRA to apply for federal funding to identify a rail corridor from Portland to Bangor. The Amtrak Downeaster has shown amazing growth despite the naysayers since it began in 2001. I have never taken a trip to Boston without it, having gone to numerous Bruins games, a cousin's wedding and to see the sights.

Having taken 6 members of my extended family on the Downeaster last year and, living in Western Maine, it would've been much easier and more convenient to get on a train in Lewiston or Auburn than in Freeport or Portland.

As someone who doesn't like driving a whole lot (though I can) I would visit my friends and family down in Portland or Bangor more often if I didn't have to drive there. Mainers who can't drive or just don't want to drive oftentimes have no choice but to drive in this state especially outside of Portland. All we are asking for is a choice. Right now as Mainers we only have one choice (to drive). I can't tell you how many times older people have told me stories of taking the train from Lewiston or Bangor to other places. Let us younger people experience that as well.

I thank you for the committee's time and urge you to vote "OUGHT TO PASS" on LD 487.

Very respectfully,

Dan