

Donald Martin
Kennebunk
LD 487

My name is Donald Martin and I live in Kennebunk.

I am writing to voice my support for LD 487. I support this bill because it is my belief that bringing passenger rail traffic back to the old Maine Central rail lines will, not only increase tourism traffic to the Central Maine area, but allow for citizens from two major city centers to experience each other's unique cities and all they have to offer. I believe that we would see more students from Southern Maine and the rest of New England consider the University of Maine at Orono as it will be easier to go to and from their homes and school.

For my family, this would be extremely beneficial. My parents are reaching a point where they no longer feel comfortable driving long distances at night time. With additional passenger rail options, they could take the train down and back home from the Bangor area and only have to drive at night time in areas they are extremely familiar and low traffic. There have been other times where friends and family had car issues and were unable to secure an alternate ride southbound. Car rentals and the bus tickets were not readily available or easy to obtain on a short notice, but I imagine a train ticket would be much easier to acquire the day before departure. And beyond that, I know my family would love to take the train all the way to Boston for sporting events, dining in the North End, and seeing extended family.

I would like to thank the committee members for taking the time to read my testimony, and I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 487.