Tony Barrett Harpswell LD 956

My name is Tony Barrett, Harpswell, Maine and I am in favor of LD 956, the removal of the existing rail along the Calais Branch rail corridor and implementation of a multi-use trail.

I have ridden a bicycle on the roads between Ayers Junction to Calais on multiple occasions. The Downeast Sunrise Trail is a wonderful recreational asset and Ayers Junction is not a destination for Mainers and visitors, but Calais definitely is. The current road connections are not welcoming nor safe, particularly Rt 214 with high speed traffic and no shoulders. The recommended option for conversion is the most cost effective while still retaining the use of the corridor for future rail use. I thank you, the transportation committee members, for your work and urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 956.