

Sacopee Valley Snow Drifters
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April 2, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

I am writing this letter to express strong support from the board members of Sacopee Valley Snow Drifters for the passage of LD 676, "An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council."

Sacopee Valley Snow Drifters (SVSD) is a snowmobile club which maintains 5.2 miles of the Mountain Division Rails (MDR) in the town of Hiram for winter use. During the 2024/2025 season SVSD had to go out and clear down trees that blocked the passage of all users of the MDR trail to access the Maine Interconnecting Trail System (ITS) that allows access to all points in Maine. SVSD has noted that most of the steel rails, rail spikes, plates, switches, and bridges along with rotted railroad ties have long been decrepit for the use of any type of train usage. With the removal of the rails and supporting hardware there would be a much safer and greater use of the railbed for all users. If the future ever brought the feasibility of the return of trains to the area, it could again have upgraded rail systems built into the Mountain Division right of way.

We strongly recommend the development of the Mountain Division Trail:

We sincerely thank the committee for their work and strongly urge to vote "**Ought to Pass.**"

Sincerely,

Sacopee Valley Snow Drifters Board of Directors.

Signed,



Jenilee Barsanti, Secretary/Treasurer