

Deb Boxer  
Standish  
LD 676

Dear committee members, thank you for the opportunity to comment on LD 676. As a Standish resident I am very excited for myself my family and our town residents to have this valuable trail system for our use. Trail systems all over the country have been proven to provide residents with the ability to ride bikes, cross country ski, hike and just simply be able to walk outside in nature safely and easily for children and the elderly and all alike. In this time of rapid growth in our area of the state, a trail system is more important than ever. The economic benefits to the towns along the route are also great as many bikers travel the country to ride exceptional trail systems. They spend money in the towns in the form of dining, shopping and staying overnight between route sections. Most large cities such as Edmonton, Alberta have extensive trail systems running throughout the city where people, pets and children can be safe and enjoy nature while still being in the big city. It is an important future growth tool as well. With health being a major consideration for choosing where to live, work and raise their families, these newcomers will look for places with connected green spaces. This Mountain Division Trail system will connect Portland to Fryberg and will be very attractive to many.

Please vote in favor of this unique and invaluable opportunity to enjoy nature and be a benefit to all.