

In Support of LD 676, An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council

April 4, 2025

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

My name is Paul Drinan, I live in Westbrook, and I am the founder and director of Vision Zero Maine and a Trustee for the [Friends of the Mountain Division Trail](#).

I support LD 676 because:

- In 2021, Maine DOT's Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC) voted 11:1 for the conversion of 31 miles of existing railroad track to an interim trail-until-rail.
- In July of 2023, LD 404 codified into law the recommendations of the RUAC
- Over 200 letters of support for LD404 were submitted to Maine's Transportation Committee by all towns and various businesses along the 31 miles of the rail line in western Maine, and dozens of in person testimony provided in support of LD404 in person.
- The bill was passed by the Transportation Committee, Senate, and House with super majorities before being signed into law by Governor Mills on July 6th, 2023.
- LD 676 will allow MDOT to spend federal grant funding on building the trail from Fryeburg to Standish, thereby bringing substantial economic development opportunities to this rural area

I thank committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote **Ought To Pass on LD 676**

Thank you,

Paul Drinan
Director, Vision Zero Maine, visionzeromaine@gmail.com
Trustee, [Friends of the Mountain Division Trail](#)