

Teresa Egan  
Brownfield  
LD 676

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

My name is Teresa Egan and I live in the Town of Brownfield. I am a member of the Friends of the Mountain Division Trail, a member of the MSAD72 School Board, and also serve on the Public Library Board of Trustees. As someone who is very involved in the town happenings, I can tell you that there is great excitement about the plan for a “trail until rail” coming through our town. Most of our businesses in town have already submitted letters of support, in addition to the support that was submitted by our Board of Selectmen.

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. I was a member of this RUAC, and found the many presentations and discussions to be very convincing regarding the benefits of this multi-use trail for every town along the corridor.
- In July of 2023, LD 404 codified into law the recommendations of the RUAC. Town residents felt validated in their belief that the legislature and the governor wanted what was best for the taxpayers in this rural segment of the State of Maine.
- Over 200 people offered testimony and letters of support for LD 404. Residents and visitors alike recognized the boost that this recreational trail would have for our economy and quality of life.
- 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. It is time to make this happen!

I thank committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote: “Ought to Pass”

Thank you.