

Matthew Hopps
Whitefield, NH
LD 676

Good morning, Maine State Legislature. My name is Matthew Hopps, I live in Whitefield, NH. I am Track Forman at the Conway Scenic Railroad. I oppose LD 676 Mountain Division rail removal.

I've been around trains all my life and worked at Conway Scenic for 6 years. This rail infrastructure is very beneficial to surrounding businesses. People have expressed very great interest in keeping this line operational.

Transportation efficiency of freight would benefit from this rail infrastructure. I have been on rail trails in Maine and New Hampshire. Usually from what I've seen, only a mile or so of rail trail is being used. The rest is hardly used. Once the rails are torn up it's almost certain they won't come back.

I urge you to vote against LD 676. I would like to thank the Maine State legislature for this opportunity to speak and offer to answer any questions they may have.