

Jonathan Rheume  
Saco  
LD 676

Dear committee members I am writing to urge you to vote against LD - 676. The Mountain Division of the former Maine central railroad should be preserve as a rail road and not torn up for a trail. May rail enthusiasts want to see rail activities once again on this line. With the Conway scenic running on the New Hampshire side and Vermont rail using the Vermont side .why can't we open the Maine side of the Division and bring freight and passenger services back to and from Portland to Vermont and maybe even to Canada. We all talk about global warming and going green ,what's greener then a railroad moving people and freight .Now about a rail trail ,just like what has been done in Fryeburg the trail fits nicely next to the railroad this in my mind can be done along the whole Mountain Division leaving the rail in place. A point of interest as a member of several railroad related organizations ,one in particular the Seashore Trolley museum has a rail bike organization running rail bike excursions on there line and the public love it . I would think this would be a great way for the public to use the rail line on a rail bike tour. Sit and pedal their way through beautiful scenery. also there are clubs that run antique railroad inspection cars ,they too offer rides when they are running their equipment a great place to run would be the Mountain Division stop along the way for both these methods of railroad useage can attract small businesses along the way with food and drink or something else of interest. lastly I would like to close with this vote no on removing the rails and think about the other uses I mentioned let the state work with Conway scenic Railroad and bring the line back to life .with ships docking in Portland why not work together to offer rides to the mountains from the coast of Maine think about the tourist draw from these ships. Look at Alaska they have a cruise ship tour with a railroad ride in the country side lets use what we have and not remove a piece of history that you have the power to preserve for generations to come.

Thank You  
Jonathan Rheume