

Josh Sandahl
Freedom, NH
LD 676

Josh Sandahl, Freedom, NH. While not a resident of Maine, the future of this rail line has a regional impact on New Hampshire. As the region continues to grow and roads continue to become clogged with traffic we need to consider alternative transportation options. I oppose LD 676 as a result of this. The Gorham connector is a prime example of the need for other public transportation options. Couple this with the recent Maine Public Transit advisory council report advising the state isn't meeting the needs of public transit there are great opportunities to be had. By removing the track Western Maine and Eastern New Hampshire would forever be cutoff from future transportation growth. The existing rail line would need to be rehabilitated for passenger and freight rail use but is capable of doing so. It would provide commuter rail or light rail options for commuters traveling into Portland for work, the White Mountains for leisure and other transportation connections in Portland. I kindly ask the committee to vote "ought not to pass" on LD 676.

Thank you,