George Small Cumberland LD 676

The Mountain Division rail line must be returned to support the success of businesses as well as mass transit and to prevent roadway and environmental damage. While the rail line is presently not being used there have been return to service conversations amongst businesses along that corridor, including the Conway Scenic Railroad, so this is not solely for one company's' advantage. Upon returning to active service these businesses could receive large volumes of materials to both utilize and/or to manufacture for sales. The reutilization of these tracks will permit the movement of this material without the need for hundreds of trailer truck loads annually. These diesel trucks have a greater negative environmental impact and cause damage to the roadways by both weight to the road's subsurface and pavement degradation. Depending upon material, both surface area and weight, there can be an average of approximately 4 trailer trucks in comparison to 1 freight car. The use of the tracks would not only prevent the use of trailer trucks, but it would also assist with providing mass transit from the City of Portland. Passengers come to Portland from points both north and south of the city, including passenger rail service from the North Station in Boston, Massachusetts. To assist with businesses support, preventing excessive roadway damage, allowing mass transit opportunities, and to assist with minimizing environmental damage this rail line can't be removed.