Eric Sofen Freeport LD 956

I am Eric Sofen, a Freeport resident and runner and cyclist. I am writing in support of LD 956 to extend the Downeast Sunrise Trail. I have spent some time on the DEST in the last couple summers and it is an amazing community resource that has drawn me to explore a part of the state that I might not have otherwise. Completing the DEST so it runs all the way to Calais will be a huge accomplishment! I see the DEST as a way to extend the outdoors tourism appeal of Acadia NP further downeast. Authorizing the trail is also the next step toward completeing the northernmost section of the East Coast Greenway, which ultimately will provide a protected route for walking and cycling all the way from Calais, ME to Key West, FL.