

Matthew Tipton  
Greenland  
LD 676

I am writing to oppose Bill LD 676, which is the plan to pull up the track that used to make up part of the Maine Central's Mountain division in Maine and turn it into a rail trail.

I oppose this bill because you could be taking away a vital transportation asset that could prove to be useful. Especially if there are a few industries along this line who want to move freight via train. Also, the Conway Scenic Railroad has expressed interest in running both freight and passenger service on the line. See here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNazTk-i2ic&t=2s>

As per the Rail Preservation Act, any non-rail use is to be treated as interim until a railroad presents itself. Since the Conway Scenic Railroad has presented itself, any trail use, whether planned or constructed, must cease while the railroad is heard out. Therefore, if you pull up that track while Conway Scenic is expressing interest in the line, it would be a direct violation of the Rail Preservation Act.

I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and urge you to vote against LD 676; it could no doubt make a huge difference in the long run.