

James Walton
Waterboro
LD 676

April 2, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

My name is James Walton, and live in the town of Waterboro, ME.

I have enjoyed the trail system in many parts of the state and believe in the opportunity to expand existing trails (like LDL 676) as it opens opportunities for all of us, whether those living in the state or not, to experience the beauty of Maine. By expanding these trails, it opens up economic opportunities for area business while people are in the area, and as Maine relies so much on it tourism, this will create more opportunities for the small business that surround it. I love the multi-use aspects of the trails, so that both old and young can partake in the great outdoors.

I support LD 676 because:

In 2021, Maine DOT's Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC) voted 11:1 for the conversion of 31 miles of existing railroad track to an interim trail-until-rail. In July of 2023, LD 404 codified into law the recommendations of the RUAC. Over 200 people offered testimony in support of LD 404. Letters of support for LD404 LD 676 will allow MDOT to spend federal grant funding on building the trail from Fryeburg to Standish, thereby bringing substantial economic development opportunities to this rural area.

I wish thank committee members for their consideration and urge them to vote:
"Ought to Pass"

Thank you, James Walton