



April 15, 2021

**Testimony Neither For Nor Against
LD 1133 "An Act To Amend the Transportation Laws"**

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is the statewide organization that advocates for bicyclists and pedestrians. We work to make Maine better for bicycling and walking, and to protect the safety and rights of vulnerable users of the public ways. We also work to make more opportunities for biking and walking for transportation and recreation through trail building.

We are offering comments on LD 1133, which among other things, would establish a process for reviewing and possibly repurposing old railway corridors for use as interim multi-use trail corridors until such time as rail re-emerges as a viable use.

There is at least one other bill, LD 1370, which also offers a vision on how the state can move forward with the process of putting these fallow transportation corridors back into use as multi-use trails.

The existence of these bills speaks to the popularity of the concept of expanding the network of bike/ped trails in the state, and to the need to create a process to make that expansion a reality.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine supports the concept of repurposing rail corridors for non-motorized bicycle and pedestrian use.

Without endorsing any one bill at this time, the Coalition hopes e hope the legislature adopts a process this legislative session.

Please let us know if we can assist in the work to establish this
process. Sincerely

James C. Tassé, PhD
Assistant Director
Bicycle Coalition of Maine

