

To: The House Committee on Transportation
Date: May 15th, 2025
From: Rachel Cohen

Dear House Transportation Committee,

I am writing as a resident of Jericho, where I have been an outdoor enthusiast and social studies teacher for the last 15 years. I am writing to urge you to support H.488.

I am interested in the Legal Trails issue particularly in the town of Tunbridge. Access to recreation in Tunbridge is important to me because it's the hometown of my extended family and where I co-own and operate The Ranger, a gravel cycling ride that benefits the community. We host this event each year specifically to help support recreation and preserve rural character in Tunbridge.

Through this work I have connected with Jonathan Bicknell and the Tunbridge Trails Committee. I've watched how a lack of clarity around Legal Trails has financially and emotionally strained a town that is so exceptionally welcoming to recreation access.

I urge the House to take action now to clarify trail maintenance. Supporting H.488 will clarify a law and a practice that has been in place for decades. I share worry with Jonathan and the Trails Committee that lack of action by the House will delay resolution to an issue that has gone unresolved for far too long—and at an enormous cost.

Please support this bill to ensure that local municipalities have the authority to maintain Legal trails.

Sincerely,

Rachel Cohen