

# INVEST IN MAINE TRAILS STATEWIDE

## LD 1156 will establish a Maine Trails Bond for outdoor recreation and active transportation.

**Maine has the potential to be a top-tier state in the nation with multi-use trails that support activities that contribute to our economy, environment, and quality of life.**

- In every corner of the state, Maine trails are a critical resource for connecting Maine people and visitors with the natural world and for reaching destinations to work and play.



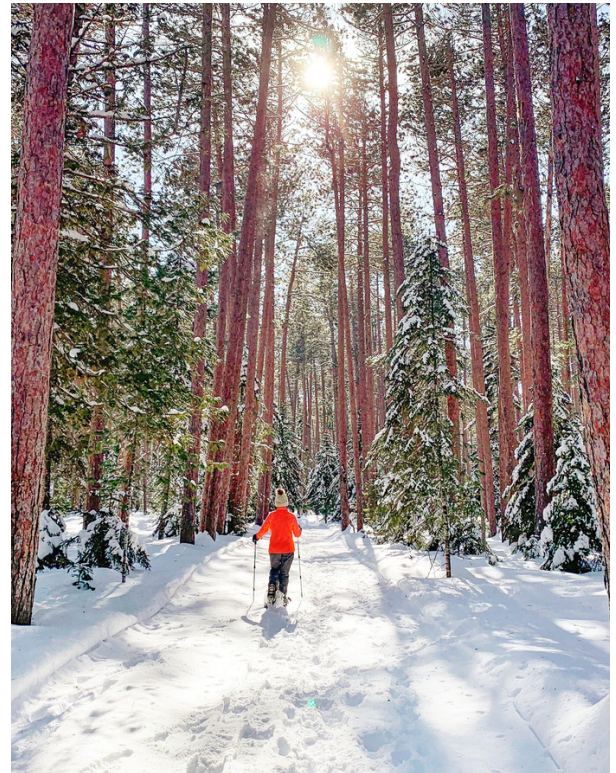
- During the pandemic, more people than ever discovered Maine trails for hiking, biking, snowmobiling, skiing, commuting, and other activities.
- Trails are an essential component of Maine's \$3 billion outdoor recreation economy, which supports 41,000 jobs. Snowmobiling alone generates \$460 million in direct spending in Maine and supports 2,200 jobs. Annual direct and indirect spending from snowmobiling exceeds \$600 million.
- According to the National Association of Realtors, nearby trails and greenways raise property values by an average of 3-5% – and sometimes upwards of 15%.

**Maine has a huge need for investment in trail design, construction, and maintenance.**

- Although Maine has many exceptional and diverse trails, trail groups and communities have identified a large backlog of maintenance projects that need attention.
- Funding also is needed to build trails that are accessible to individuals across the full range of abilities.
- New trails could support active transportation, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.
- Existing state, federal, and private funding is insufficient to make Maine a nationally recognized destination for trails.

**A Maine Trails Bond will strengthen Maine's economy and help protect our environment.**

- A \$30 million Maine Trails Bond would provide grants to nonprofits, municipalities, and other divisions of government statewide to support non-motorized, motorized, and multi-use trails.
- Funding would be distributed over a 4-year period, and applicants would be required to demonstrate at least 20% in matching contributions.
- Funding would be managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL), which has experience managing the federal Recreation Trails Program.
- BPL would coordinate with the Department of Transportation for any grant applications that help advance the Maine State Active Transportation Plan.



**Support LD 1156. Invest in Maine trails to strengthen our communities, economy, and quality of life.**

For more information, please contact

**Pete Didisheim**, Natural Resources Council of Maine, at (207) 232-4768 or [pdidisheim@nrcm.org](mailto:pdidisheim@nrcm.org);  
**Eliza Townsend**, Appalachian Mountain Club, at (207) 699-9815 or [etownsend@outdoors.org](mailto:etownsend@outdoors.org)