

WHY RAIL IN MAINE – LD 2019

The current proposal by Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) management to rebuild and utilize the “Main Line” rail road to connect the Regional Transportation Center in Portland, Maine to the Brunswick and beyond will result in enhanced rail service for a wide region of Maine, both passenger and freight.

Funding for the Downeaster operations by the State of Maine should be a priority. The state should provide its share of operating subsidy for Downeaster rail service of approximately \$8 million per year beginning in fiscal year 2010.

Benefits to Investing in Rail Will Help With

- **movement of raw materials in and out of the state and manufactured goods burdened by the high costs of highway freight shipping.**
- **land use development for commercial and residential interests that will locate along the transportation network.**
- **Reduce costs of maintenance of highways, arterials, local and secondary**
- **Create jobs in railroad construction and development of railroad stations and rail yards.**
- **Reduce Pollution, (CO2) (1/3 of trucks)**
- **Fuel efficiency (3x vs trucks)**
- **Road Cost reductions (Millions of dollars in ME)**
- **Traffic congestion elimination (thousands of cars trips per year)**
- **Speed of transport (Rail can be fastest intercity transport)**
- **Safety (by far the safest mode of transportation)**
- **develop a realistic comprehensive state rail transportation plan**
- **curbing global warming**

What **YOU** Can Do: Ask your members in the House and Senate to support **LD 2019**
This bill, beginning July 1, 2009, dedicates a percentage of sales and use tax revenue to the State Transit, Aviation and Rail Transportation Fund, also known as the STAR Transportation Fund, to support transit, aeronautics and rail transportation, including the Downeaster train service.

ATTEND

Transit/Rail Supporters Forum

Date: Tuesday March 25, 2008

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Place: Casco Bay Lines Conference Room

Purpose: Organize the effort to pass a legislative document (LD 2019) to fund Passenger rail service in Maine.
Go to the Web addresses below to find your representative.

<http://janus.state.me.us/house/rep.htm>

For more information on this bill please contact Joan at jsaxe@suscom-maine.net