

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MAINE FOREST
SERVICE FOR ITS 2024 OUT-OF-STATE MOBILIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, regionally and nationally, the Maine Forest Service, as part of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, works within mutual aid agreements to assist state and federal partners, including during the recent 2024 mobilization season; and

WHEREAS, through the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and National Stafford Act Master Agreement, the Maine Forest Service had 30 mobilizations in 2024, sending resources to other parts of the country to respond to 25 incidents, including Hurricane Helene in the Town of Black Mountain in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 the Maine Forest Service also sent personnel and equipment to California, New Mexico, Washington, Nevada, Oregon, Georgia, Alabama, Connecticut and Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, forty-one rangers, one forester and one entomologist from the Maine Forest Service participated in the 2024 mobilization season, as did staff from the Maine Land Use Planning Commission and other state agencies and 24 call-when-needed firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Forest Service sent these personnel and resources to other states to respond to wildfires and natural disasters, but because of our mutual aid agreements, Maine can rely on help from other states when natural disasters occur here; and

WHEREAS, while Maine forest rangers and Maine Forest Service staff, other state staff and the call-when-needed firefighters are highly trained, by mobilizing across the country, they gained invaluable additional training and experience that they can apply to the protection of Maine's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, wildfire suppression and emergency response missions are inherently dangerous, but through training, having reliable equipment, using proper personal protective equipment, conducting medical screenings and relying on peer support systems, the Maine Forest Service was successful operationally and in protecting all personnel both here and away in 2024; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, take this opportunity to recognize the Maine Forest Service for its 2024 mobilization season and express our appreciation for and pride in the personnel of the Maine Forest Service and all who answered the call.