

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2023 AS
BROWNTAIL MOTH AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, browntail moth populations in Maine have been in an outbreak phase since 2015, and the browntail moth is not a pest that can be eradicated; and

WHEREAS, most areas of Maine, especially settled areas that have significant host tree populations, including oak, apple, crabapple, pear, birch and cherry trees, are at risk; and

WHEREAS, long-lasting tree defoliation caused by browntail moth caterpillars is a major concern, and browntail moth caterpillars shed microscopic, toxic hairs that can cause a person to have trouble breathing or suffer skin irritation similar to poison ivy; and

WHEREAS, state agencies are committed to coordinating within State Government, with local communities and directly with citizens to respond to the problems posed by browntail moth populations; and

WHEREAS, winter is the best time to clip and destroy browntail moth webs that are safely within reach or to hire licensed arborists or licensed pesticide applicators to reduce populations that are out of reach; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive browntail moth information and tools collected by state agencies and the University of Maine, including research, infestation tracking and the answers to frequently asked questions and other educational resources, can be obtained by dialing 211 or visiting 211maine.org; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 2023 as Browntail Moth Awareness Month and encourage the citizens of the State to learn about browntail moths by dialing 211 or visiting 211maine.org.