

Julia Gray  
Orland  
LD 1163

Chair Rotundo, Chair Sachs, and honorable members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of LD 1163.

As the executive director of the Wilson Museum, I am very much aware of the growing costs to repair and improve the arts and cultural buildings under my care. The Wilson Museum has a 5-acre campus with four buildings, several of which are also historic buildings. Beyond just the aging that impacts our buildings, we are also faced with the growing impact of climate change on our buildings, especially as we are situated right on the shores of Castine Harbor/Penobscot Bay, and on a small, rocky peninsula where stormwater run-off is a growing challenge. There are also improvements in building technologies that can make it substantially less expensive to operated arts and cultural buildings, such as LED lighting and heat pumps.

This past year, with support from Maine Preservation, we worked with a consultant to do a historic structures assessment of two of our historic buildings, the ca. 1783 Perkins House and our 1921 concrete and masonry museum building. We now have an extensive list of projects to tackle for both, and we will definitely need financial help to do this work. In addition, we know that the efficiency and sustainability of our other buildings (both environmentally and financially) could be improved through investments in building envelope, heating, and lighting. The initial capital costs, however, will need additional financial support.

LD 1163 has the potential to make a huge difference for the Wilson Museum and other arts and cultural buildings across the state, allowing us to continue to fulfill our missions, serve our communities, and support the local and state economy.

I urge the committee's support of LD 1163.

Thank you,  
Julia Gray, Orland  
Executive Director, Wilson Museum, Castine