



Committee on Environment & Natural Resources  
% Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

January 10, 2023

**RE: LD 2058, An Act Regarding Compliance with Environmental Permit and License Application Requirements**

Dear Sen. Brenner, Rep. Gramlich, and Members of the ENR Committee:

My name is Francesca “Ches” Gundrum and I am Maine Audubon’s Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation non-profit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine’s wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 2058, *An Act Regarding Compliance with Environmental Permit and License Application Requirements*.

The Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) is one of Maine’s most important environmental protection laws. From education to conservation, Maine Audubon works to conserve the diverse natural resources of state significance that NRPA was created to help protect. Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for protecting and restoring Maine’s natural resources and enforcing the state’s environmental laws – including NRPA. This bill gives DEP discretionary authority not to accept after-the-fact applications for NRPA permits when it is clear that an applicant knew they were already violating permitting requirements or had previous violations. This is good common sense legislation. While relatively infrequent, many egregious examples are included amongst those that have taken advantage of the permitting process.

We thank DEP leadership and staff for their commitment to the protection and enhancement of our environment. We hope you join us in supporting LD 2058. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francesca Gundrum".

Francesca “Ches” Gundrum | Policy Advocate