

Maya Faulstich
Maine Youth for Climate Justice
LD 593

Honorable members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry committee,

I am a high schooler with Maine Youth for Climate Justice and a resident of Yarmouth ME, urging you to support LD 593. Land for Maine's Future is a widely popular program and its funding directly benefits people all across Maine, including me. Many Mainers live in close proximity to conserved land funded through Maine's Future Program and use those trails to get places or just enjoy the outdoors. I live close to a few amazing parks and green spaces where I go running, bird watching, and biking.

Humans have always needed access to natural space, but it's even more important now, with my generation having the highest rates of anxiety and depression. Being outside exponentially boosts mental health, and if more people, especially those my age, can have easy access to nature, we can combat our generational mental health crisis.

Even more importantly, as more federal cuts to our park services loom, Maine needs to protect and conserve land for present and future use, or else we risk it being lost. I am very concerned about our national parks, which are suffering severe funding cuts. In response, we must protect state and local green spaces as much as we can, to preserve what we have before it is lost.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Maya Faulstich
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