



**Testimony of
7 Lakes Alliance**

IN SUPPORT OF

**LD 593: An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program
Submitted to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee**

March 13, 2025

Dear Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and Distinguished Members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony **In Support of LD 593: An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program**. 7 Lakes Alliance is a nonprofit, science-based and community-based watershed organization and land trust working to conserve the lands and lakes of the Belgrade Lakes for all. Working communities throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed, we conserve the waters and lands around Messalonskee Lake, Long Pond, Great Pond, North Pond, Salmon-McGrath, and East Pond. We operate programs in water quality science, erosion prevention and control, invasive plant prevention and remediation, land conservation, and watershed-based education.

7 Lakes enthusiastically urges you to support LD593 to ensure sustained and meaningful funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMFP). The program is effective and leverages tremendous private and public matching support. For now and future generations, LMFB supports nature-based values broadly cherished by all Mainers: natural landscapes, sustainable resource-based economic activity, access to the natural world, outdoor recreation and traditions, working waterfronts, farming and forests, and resilient landscapes.

Since the inception of LMFP, we have seen first-hand the positive impacts of LMFP for people and wildlife in our region. For instance, early LMFP support for the Kennebec Highlands, along the western border of our watershed, helped define our region as one where people can experience scenic beauty, outdoor recreation, remoteness, and outdoor traditions within a short distance of the state capital, accessible to several population centers. By protecting lands in our region, LMFB has also helped ensure

water quality of our lakes and streams. LMFP has also helped leverage millions of dollars in additional public and private investment in the health of regional lands.

Finally, the need for sustained funding is urgent. LMFP will soon have allocated -- with tremendous benefits and returns on investment to the citizens of Maine -- the funds currently available to it. However, the development pressures and threats to our natural heritage continue to increase. The time to ensure sustained funding for LMFP is now.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony **In Support of LD 593: An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program**. If I can provide additional information, please contact me at (207) 931-7710.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura Rose Day".

Laura Rose Day
Chief Conservation Officer