

Jeanmarie Reed Russell  
Wilson Museum, Castine  
LD 761

Good Afternoon.

As a former educator, Castine business owner, Director of the Castine Visitors Center and current Trustee of the Wilson Museum, I have had first hand experience with the significant impact historical tourism has on our economy. Approval of LDL 761 will support the preservation of historical properties that deserve protection and will multiply the impact of existing tax payer funded tourism efforts as well as tax payer funded curriculum goals. Our curriculums include trips to historical sites that require significant upkeep. Castine is home to a national treasure, Fort George, a rare Revolutionary War era fortification that has been neglected by the State, a situation that deserves remedy, which would go a long way towards supporting State education goals and add a new dimension to Maine's historical tourism efforts.

We Mainers love our history, and you'd be hard pressed to find a city or town without an Historical Society, usually led by a cadre of volunteers who tirelessly support our communities. Our history helps form the fabric of our lives as Mainers; preserving the state's historic structures benefits the public good by reinforcing our shared identity. The approval of LD 761 would honor the investments, stewardship and fortitude of those who have come before us and would be a win-win for Mainers of today and those who follow. Your vote is tomorrow's history, and as such I respectfully request your support of LD 761.