

Jonathan Eaton
Thomaston
LD 1264

I'm writing in support of LD 1264, asking the Bureau of Parks and Lands to modify the deed that conveyed the Henry Knox Museum to the Friends of Montpelier. The Friends--a volunteer organization--faces a major challenge to maintain and repair this huge wood-and-brick mansion/museum that is more than a century old. It is in no one's interest to witness the deterioration of a fascinating monument to Maine's Colonial-era history. Yet the State has placed the Friends of Montpelier in an impossible position--on the one hand refusing to help with upkeep (because the building is a replica, not the original mansion built by Henry Knox), while on the other hand burdening the Friends with restrictions and requirements that multiply the costs of repairs and maintenance. This Catch 22 is untenable and unreasonable. Since the State has made clear that it does not want responsibility, it should at least untie the Friends' hands so that they can care for the building instead. Thank you.