



TOWN OF THOMASTON
TOWN MANAGER
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April 1, 2025

Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
Maine State Legislature
State House, Room 318
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Support for LD1264

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Thomaston in support of LD1264, a bill that will provide critical support to the **General Henry Knox Museum**, a significant historical institution in our community. As the Town Manager, I feel it is important to share with you the profound impact the Museum has on both our local history and the broader state heritage.

The General Henry Knox Museum, located in Thomaston, is the only museum dedicated to Major General Henry Knox, the first U.S. Secretary of War and a key figure in the American Revolution. Knox played a crucial role in events like the crossing of the Delaware River and the strategic transport of cannons to secure Boston Harbor. Beyond his military achievements, he helped shape Thomaston's industries, including shipbuilding and logging. The Museum preserves this rich history, offering educational programming and housing important artifacts, such as the Thomaston Cavalry flag, one of Maine's oldest military flags.

The Museum currently faces significant challenges. To continue its mission, the Museum has been working with the **State of Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands** and the **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** to address the need for repairs to the property. Due to a historical conservation easement that limits certain renovation options, the Museum is seeking a compromise that will allow for repairs to be made in an energy-efficient and cost-effective manner.

The Town of Thomaston believes that the preservation of the General Henry Knox Museum is not only important to our local history but is also vital to the region's economic vitality. The Museum attracts tourists, supports local businesses, and educates the public about a pivotal figure in American history. We strongly support the Museum's efforts to work with the state agencies to find a solution that ensures the Museum's long-term survival.

On behalf of the Town of Thomaston, I respectfully urge you to support **LD1264** and assist the General Henry Knox Museum in overcoming the challenges it currently faces. This legislation is essential for maintaining a critical piece of Maine's history and ensuring that future generations will continue to benefit from the Museum's educational and cultural contributions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kara George
Thomaston Town Manager

