

Michael Holt
Arnold Expedition Historical Society
LD 762

From: The Arnold Expedition Historical Society

To: The Honorable Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

Subject: Letter of Support for LD 762 - An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites

On behalf of the Arnold Expedition Historical Society, we are writing to express our strong and urgent support for LD 762, "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites."

We believe this bill is absolutely critical for the survival of numerous vital pieces of Maine's history, including the Colburn House State Historic Site in Pittston. This site, which served, for a short time, as Colonel Benedict Arnold's headquarters during the pivotal 1775 expedition to Quebec, is facing a severe threat to its structural integrity.

We are deeply concerned about the ongoing and worsening Powder Post Beetle infestation within the Colburn House. This infestation has been known for several years and is actively weakening the beams and overall structural integrity of this irreplaceable historic building. Despite the clear understanding of the severity of this issue and the desire of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to address it, the necessary repairs have been consistently delayed due to a lack of dedicated funding. This is not a matter of neglect or lack of interest, but a direct consequence of insufficient resources.

The potential loss of the Colburn House due to structural failure caused by this infestation is a deeply troubling prospect. The passage of LD 762 would provide the essential funding to not only address this urgent threat but also to implement other critical and essential repairs needed at Maine State Historic Sites.

We implore the committee to recognize the immediate need for these funds and to give LD 762 your strongest favorable consideration. The preservation of sites like the Colburn House is an investment in our shared heritage and a responsibility we owe to future generations.

Thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to safeguarding Maine's invaluable historic resources.

Sincerely,

Michael Holt, Secretary AEHS
On behalf of the
Arnold Expedition Historical Society
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