



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY
DIRECTOR

April 10, 2025

Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair
Rep. Drew Gattine, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
c/o Office of Fiscal and Program Review
State House Station 5
Augusta, ME 04333-0005

Re: LD 762

Dear Sen. Rotundo and Rep. Gattine:

I am writing to provide testimony neither for nor against LD 762, *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites*.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is the steward of some of Maine's most significant historic sites, from Fort McClary in Kittery to the West Quoddy Head Light Station in Lubec and the Fort Kent Blockhouse in Fort Kent. Its inventory includes the eighteenth-century home of Reuben Colburn in Pittston, Colonial Pemaquid in Bristol, the summer residence of Admiral Robert E. Peary on Eagle Island in Harpswell, and portions of the Katahdin Iron Works site north of Brownville.

These historic sites offer opportunities for Maine residents, as well as those who visit, to experience and learn from tangible connections to the past. However, unless these sites are maintained and repaired those opportunities will cease to exist. As an example, the Colburn House is so deteriorated that it cannot be open to the public on the 250th anniversary this fall of Arnold's March to Quebec – one of Maine's most important links to the Revolutionary War.

The state holds these historic sites in trust for the public, and it is the state's responsibility to ensure that they are cared for in a manner that will enable present and future generations to experience them.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney
Director
Maine Historic Preservation Commission