

Jeanmarie Reed Russell  
Castine History Partners/Wilson Museum  
LD 762

In Support of LD 762  
April 9, 2025

To the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee:

Good Afternoon,

As a former Castine merchant and representative of the Wilson Museum and Castine History Partners, I urge your approval of LD 762.

LD 762 would secure funds for Fort George, located in Castine. Constructed by British forces during the Revolution, abandoned in 1784, and briefly recaptured during the War of 1812, Fort George occupies a unique niche in our State and Nation's history. Heritage management consultants Gray & Pape, suggest there is a strong likelihood that Fort George was the last American site British troops withdrew from in 1784, marking the end of the Revolutionary War and, most significantly, the beginnings of American independence.

Fort George, along with the British Canal and Castine proper could be considered Maine's equivalent of Bunker Hill, or the Old North Church-and as such, Fort George represents an under-capitalized Maine asset whose preservation and subsequent promotion would greatly benefit the downeast region and the State as a whole. The town of Castine, home of Maine Maritime Academy, lacks the tax base to protect, preserve and realize the full potential of Fort George and the opportunities it represents across multiple sectors. Your support of LD 762 and Fort George would honor and protect this irreplaceable piece of Maine history and pay dividends for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanmarie Reed Russell  
Penobscot