

Charles Woodworth  
Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development  
LD 362

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing in strong support of LD 362.

Land for Maine's Future has played a critical role in conserving Maine lands and waters for both wildlife and people. Yet we have a long way to go to reach conservation targets set by the State, private sector, and institutions.

As you know, Land for Maine's Future is nearly out of funding, and will be out after the current grant round this spring. With federal grants increasingly uncertain, replenishing the State's primary source of funding for conservation is critical to move forward. Without LMF, it is not only possible but nearly certain that conservation in Maine would grind to a halt.

Several avenues may be needed to re-fund LMF this year - appropriations and bonds. A General Fund Bond may be the best opportunity.

Thank you for considering this testimony.