



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

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COMMISSIONER

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

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

April 10, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Andy Cutko, and I am the Director of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. I am speaking on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) as 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 manages roughly fifteen State Historic Sites that represent Maine's rich and varied history. In addition to these designated State Historic Sites, several buildings within Maine's State Parks are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These Historic Sites and historic structures illuminate Maine's connections with Indigenous cultures, early European settlements, and pivotal moments in American history. These sites are generally open to the public and range from Fort McClary in Kittery, which has stood for 275 years to protect the Piscataqua River, to the West Quoddy Head Lighthouse in Lubec, which marks the easternmost point in the United States, to the Fort Kent Blockhouse, which is the only surviving American fortification built during the border tensions known as the Aroostook War in 1838. Some sites, like Fort Popham in Phippsburg, are managed mainly by the Bureau, while others, like Fort Goerge in Castine, are managed in concert with a municipality or a group of dedicated citizens or friends groups.

We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to address much-needed deferred maintenance in our State Parks over the past few years with state COVID relief funds allocated by Governor Mills and approved by the legislature. At the same time, we acknowledge that a similar investment is needed in our Historic Sites. Leaky roofs and structural deficiencies make these buildings more susceptible to weather, and in some cases, like Eagle Island, has led to significant mold issues. In total, we estimate that historic structures managed by our Bureau need more than \$30 million in repair and preservation costs (see table below).

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I would be glad to answer any questions now or at the work session.

Historic Site/Structure	Estimated Need
Colonial Pemaquid	\$5,100,000
Fort McClary	\$2,335,000
Eagle Island	\$3,614,400
Fort Baldwin	\$2,125,000
Fort Popham	\$1,200,000
Fort George	\$400,000
Fort St. George	\$50,000
Fort Edgecomb	\$465,000
Colburn House	\$1,500,000
Two Lights State Park*	\$2,250,000
Jewell Island*	\$1,500,000
Songo Lock*	\$500,000
Fort Knox	\$7,915,000
Katahdin Iron Works	\$2,000,000
Fort Kent	\$100,000
Quoddy Head*	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$31,304,400

*These locations contain historic structures designated on the National Register of Historic Places, but they are within State Parks rather than State Historic Sites.