

May 2, 2025

Dear Distinguished Members of the Committee of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry,

I am writing in support of LD 1724, Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County. I am a member of the Baxter State Park Advisory Board and am aware of the background issues that this legislation is trying to address.

This legislation is required, under the Maine Designated Lands Act, in order for the Authority to make such a move. It is in reference to the Austin Carry Lot, in Harpswell, which is currently owned by Baxter State Park but which is – obviously – located many hours from the Park itself. That geographic distance makes it challenging for the Park to manage, and Park staff believe that a different, more local owner will be able to provide better benefits to and more effective collaboration with the local community.

Importantly, this legislation does not *require* the Authority to convey the property, but it will enable that conveyance to be possible. I believe this is a relatively straight forward matter that will better serve both the people and community of Harpswell and Baxter State Park.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to support LD 1724.

Sincerely,

Lauren Jacobs

Old Town