

Robert Bryan
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Committee Agriculture Conservation, and Forestry
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1724, Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County

Dear Senator Ross, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry,

I am submitting this letter of testimony in support of LD 1724.

I am licensed forester, resident of Harpswell and served on the Advisory Committee of the Baxter State Park Scientific Management Area for over 20 years. During that time I have observed careful stewardship of the Austin Carey Forest by the Park staff and their local consulting forester, Barrie Brusila.

I strongly support the demonstration forestry mission of the Austin Carey Forest, but I also understand the challenges that the Park staff have in fulfilling their responsibilities to this parcel given the distance from Millinocket to Harpswell. An organization with a similar mission but with stronger regional presence would be an ideal owner. If the Park Authority were able to transfer this forest to an organization that was capable of fulfilling its purpose as a sustainable forestry and wildlife management demonstration area the public and the land would be well served.

Sincerely



Robert R. Bryan