

May 15, 2025

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

I am writing to express my concern about the impact of LD 1093. Please vote NO on this bill. LD 1093 is focused on Scarborough Beach. It was initially intended to provide improved transparency around the beach's admissions policies, but was amended in committee. **As it now stands, this bill would mean that any state park pass holder in Maine — and there are 40,000 — would have admission to Scarborough Beach.**

The practical impact of this would be bad for Scarborough as a whole, as well as the local community that lives in the area:

- It would exacerbate significant traffic and safety concerns along the the roadway near the beach.
- It would likely reduce beach access for Scarborough residents by introducing competition for a beach that is limited in size and parking.
- It would harm the natural resource of the beach and fragile dunes, as well as marshland habitat that surrounds the beach. Both human and vehicular impacts would be problematic.

My greatest concerns relate to traffic and safety along Black Point Road, on which the Scarborough Beach parking lots sit. I live about a half-mile away, and I have witnessed accidents — and a great many near-accidents! — in this location. The area where this beach resides is residential. **Black Point Road is the only road in and out of the area;** and is it is well-traveled in the summer by cars seeking to reach Scarborough Beach, nearby Ferry Beach and the Black Point Inn, among other public attractions. Black Point Road is also a very popular walking and biking route, which compounds the traffic and safety issues.

Rep. Warren, who is sponsoring the bill, has said that she does not believe opening up the beach to all state park pass holders would increase the number of visitors to the beach. This point does not seem well reasoned, and appears to be based on wishful thinking. She has also suggested that beach's unique location and the bill's likely impact on the surrounding community should have no bearing on the issue, which is both surprising and frustrating to hear as a constituent.

Scarborough Beach has been managed by a public-private partnership that stems from the transfer of the land to the state in the 1990s. This act to preserve the land and open it for public enjoyment provides a benefit to the town of Scarborough and the state of Maine. Scarborough Beach's management structure is different from that of most other state-owned parks, but it has worked very well over the past thirty years.

Please reject LD 1093 in its current form. As currently written, the bill would cause much more harm than good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth von Stade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth von Stade
7 Ferry Road
Scarborough, ME 04074