



Maine Professional Guides Association

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Testimony in Support of LD 1312

An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund

November 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, my name is James Cote and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Professional Guides Association, and I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of LD 1312.

The Maine Professional Guides Association (MPGA) represents approximately one thousand registered Maine guides who offer exceptional experiences ranging from paddle board yoga to bear hunting. The Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program has been a major success for Maine guides, in a variety of ways.

First, LMF is a critical tool that helps insulate Maine traditional industries like farming, fishing, and forestry from the pressures of development. As a conservation instrument, the permanent conservation of fields, forests, and waterfront, and associated access, strengthens these sectors' ability to thrive. And as many guides offer outdoor experiences on many of these landscapes, it simultaneously affords many ancillary benefits to these rural economies.

Secondly, MPGA has worked for decades on protecting and enhancing recreational access to both public and private property in Maine. Even today, we sit on multiple boards and stakeholder groups dedicated to pursuing improved recreational access opportunities. The Land for Maine's Future program is a critical element to long-term recreational access objectives by guides, sportsmen, and the general public. We are strong supporters of the program's inclusion and protection of traditional recreational access, which affords every Mainer the opportunity to enjoy these landscapes in ways that they choose.

LD 1312 offers a more predictable revenue source for this amazing program, one that we believe is well deserved after the program's track record of success and support of our industry. We urge you to support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

An organization of professional guides dedicated to promoting a quality, ethical outdoor experience.