



**APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN CLUB**
SINCE 1876

**Testimony of Eliza Townsend, Maine Conservation Policy Director
In support of**

LD 1054 An Act to Amend Certain Definitions in the Laws Governing Conservation Easements

February 24, 2026

Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker and distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, I am Eliza Townsend, Maine Conservation Policy Director for the Appalachian Mountain Club, speaking in support of LD 1054.

AMC's mission is to foster the protection, enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors. We have 6,200 members in Maine and own 127,000 acres of forestland in the 100-Mile Wilderness region of Piscataquis County, managed for multiple use including sustainable forestry, backcountry recreation, and environmental education.

We are pleased to support additional tools, however modest, to further the Wabanaki people's efforts to increase land ownership of, and access, and stewardship responsibility to traditional places and resources. This bill is intended to do just that, by clarifying Maine's existing conservation easement law to make certain that federally recognized tribal governments have access to the same legal tools as land trusts and municipalities to care for lands including culturally important sites.

As you know, conserving land is a fundamental strategy to address both biodiversity loss and climate change. That's why Maine's Climate Action Plan calls for conserving 30% of the land in Maine by the year 2030. Unfortunately, reaching that target will be challenging, as we have conserved only 22.5% to date.

Passing LD 1054 can help speed conservation efforts while supporting Wabanaki access to culturally important sites. We ask you to vote Ought to Pass.