

Chair Ingwersen and Chair Pluecker and the distinguished members of the Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

My name is Rayna Palm. I live in Swanville, Maine and I am here today to ask that you support Senator Hickman's bill LD 1274 An Act to Increase Land Access for Historically Disadvantaged Populations.

I am here because it is time that we are on the right side of history! Yikes! Why are we even still here? I believe Land Access can truly change everything. To finally increase Land Access is to honor the struggles and history of the Black community. We have all seen the atrocities of slavery, red lining, broken promises, lynchings, and many many more ghastly oversteps of rightful human boundaries. It is time to show the historically marginalized community that we care that our collective history does not represent the future. Land Access is access to Equality, to Culture, to Healing, and to being able to provide for oneself, one's family and one's community. It is the ability to access intergenerational wealth and to not struggle for security day by day. I live with access to wild spaces and farmland and I am grateful for that privilege. I wish for everyone to have the possibility to raise a family in peace, to be able to watch the birds' yearly migrations from their back porch, and to have the awe of raising good food and the community you can build around it.

As a young Mainer, an Asian-American woman, and a gardener, I urge you to support Senator Hickman's Bill LD 1274 An Act to Increase Land Access for Historically Disadvantaged Populations.

Thank you for listening,
Rayna Palm