



Russell Black
Senator, District 5

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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TESTIMONY OF SENATOR RUSSELL BLACK

LD 1285

“An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program”

Public Hearing: April 10, 2023

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker and distinguished members of the Committee. I am Senator Russell Black, and I am here today to introduce, LD 1285 “An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program”.

As we all know, if it was not for the Land’s for Maine’s future program a number of pieces of land in Maine more than likely would not be preserved or still be available to the public to use or being used as working farmland today. These pieces of land would have been sold to developers or sold for other purposes and the public would not be able to use them. There is probably not a person in this room who has not enjoyed or used a piece of land that was purchased by the LFM program.

I believe this program works and it is worth taxpayer’s money because having this land available makes the state a better place to live, work and raise a family. The state of Maine taxpayers are getting a good return on their investment.

As this bill it is currently drafted this bill would fund the next two years FY23/24 and FY 24/25 which LMF already has funding for these two fiscal years. My intent and the goal of this bill is to secure funding for FY 25/26 and FY 26/27 and I would like to work with the committee to amend the bill in the most appropriate way to accomplish this goal. This would effectively extend the current 4-year \$40 million investment into 6-years and \$60 million.

There are some others coming after me with some ideas on how to make this happen. Thank you for the opportunity to present LD 1285 and I look forward to working with the committee on this legislation.