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April 13, 2023

***Testimony of Rep. Poppy Arford in support of
LD 695, An Act to Exempt Nonprofit Land Trusts from Sales Tax
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation***

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. I am Representative Poppy Arford. I proudly serve House District 101 in Brunswick. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to share my support for **LD 695, An Act to Exempt Nonprofit Land Trusts from Sales Tax.**

I stand before you to urge passage of LD 695 which provides a mechanism for sales tax exemption for incorporated nonprofit land trusts in Maine. The bill accomplishes this by adding them to the list of nonprofit entities that are exempt from sales tax. I firmly believe that the outstanding contributions which nonprofit land trusts make statewide more than qualify for being added to this list.

The people in my community and the surrounding area have benefitted greatly for many years from the land conservation and programs provided by the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT). Specifically, the Land Trust “conserves and stewards’ vital natural areas, supports a vibrant local food system, and connects people with the natural world through inclusive education and recreation programs. Their goal is to protect our natural resources, cultivate care for the natural world, and in so doing, foster resilient, connected communities now and for generations to come.” Clearly, the Land Trust funds retained by receiving a sales tax exemption will be used to serve the interests of Maine people.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have for me.