



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

James Dill

72 Sunset Drive

Old Town, ME 04468

Phone: 207-827-3498

James.Dill@legislature.maine.gov

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Testimony of Rep. James Dill introducing

LD 1511, An Act to Update the Laws Governing the University of Maine System's Board of Agriculture and to Rename the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station

Before the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker and distinguished members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, my name is Jim Dill, and I represent House District 26 and the communities of Bradley, Old Town and Penobscot Indian Island. I am here before you today to present **LD 1511, An Act to Update the Laws Governing the University of Maine System's Board of Agriculture and to Rename the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station**

This bill renames the "Maine Agricultural Experiment Station" the "Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station" and requires the Director of the station to perform their duties with advice from the University of Maine System's Board of Agriculture.

It also adds aquaculture and the State's rural economy to the board's advisory duties to the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the University of Maine at Orono. It also changes the membership of the board and requires the board to invite appropriate individuals and conduct a public, facilitated discussion at least once per year to better understand the needs and trends in agriculture that would benefit from new or additional research.

Finally, the bill requires the board to include in its annual report to the Legislature an outline of emerging trends in agriculture, to submit annual proposals for additional funding for program needs to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System and to update its long-range plan for operation of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station every five years.

Thank you for your time and attention. I am happy to answer any questions you have of me.