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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

IN SUPPORT OF LD 2038

*An Act to make changes to the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Board Composition to allow for proxy designees*

January 3, 2024

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Amanda Beal; I am the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), speaking in support of "*An Act to make changes to the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Board Composition to allow for proxy designees.*"

Although attendance at all LMF Board meetings is a high priority for the three natural resource agency Commissioners who serve as permanent members of the LMF Board, there are instances when a Commissioner cannot attend an LMF board meeting. This bill will allow the three permanent board seats on LMF (the Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Marine Resources; and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) to designate a proxy, if needed, to vote at board meetings in their absence. This is a standard allowance embedded in statute for many boards that these Commissioners serve on, as from a practical perspective, Commissioners are obligated to serve on numerous boards, along with their many other responsibilities. This change does not make any changes to the public members who also hold board seats.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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