



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

IN SUPPORT OF LD 2061

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond

January 3, 2024

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Andy Cutko, and I am the Director of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). I am speaking on behalf of the Department in favor of LD 2061, "*Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond,*" and I want to thank Representative Cluchey for sponsoring this bill.

DACF endorses conveying approximately 32 acres of Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond. Under an agreement initiated by the State, beginning in 2011, the Town of Richmond has operated, staffed, and managed Peacock Beach State Park under a 25-year lease agreement with BPL. The Park serves primarily local residents, and its main attraction is a small sand beach on Pleasant Pond. Under the terms of the lease agreement, no funds change hands. The Town charges a small entrance fee and has retained those fees to support the use of the Park. Conveyance of the Park to the Town would enable longer-term capital investments in the Park by the Town.

Because the land was purchased with the support of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the land must be maintained for recreational purposes in perpetuity. BPL requests that language reflecting that restriction be placed in the deed.

We are not aware of any concerns or opposition to the proposed conveyance. I would be glad to answer any questions.

ANDREW R. CUTKO, DIRECTOR
PHONE (207) 287-3821
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
WEB: WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF/

