



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

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

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST LD 1093

*An Act to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks
and Lands to Prevent the Use of the Term "State Park" by Nonstate Parks*

March 27, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Ron Hunt, and I am the Director of the Park Operations and Maintenance for the Bureau of Parks and Lands. I am speaking on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) as neither for nor against LD 1093, *An Act to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Prevent the Use of the Term "State Park" by Nonstate Parks*.

The Department is not aware of any 'nonstate parks' that are designated as state parks. As a result, the bill, as currently drafted, would have no impact on the Department.

Through recent communications with the bills sponsor, we understand this bill originated from a citizen's interest in the fee structure at Scarborough Beach State Park. Since the 1980s, this state park, which the Department owns, has been managed by the Black Point Association through a long-term lease agreement. This agreement was created because the state did not have sufficient staff to operate the park, and the current lease runs through 2029.

The same limited staffing conditions that inspired the lease arrangement in the 1980s remain today. Our staff is stretched thin, with more than 3 million visitors per year at our 48 state parks and historic sites, and with state park visitation on a steady rise. Our staff do a remarkable job of providing safe and enjoyable experiences while stewarding some of Maine's most special places. Given the challenges of increasing legislative headcount, we are fortunate to have a strong partnership with the Black Point Association to manage Scarborough Beach State Park, and the relationship works well.

Thank you for your time. I would happily answer any questions now or at the work session.

HARLOW BUILDING
18 ELKINS LANE
AUGUSTA, MAINE



PHONE: (207) 287-3200
FAX: (207) 287-2400
WEB: WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF