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Testimony on

L.D. 630, “An Act to Implement Portions of the *“Protecting Maine’s Beaches for the Future: 2017 Update” Report Regarding Beach Nourishment and Dune Restoration Projects*”

**Presented by
Representative Robert A. Foley
District 145**

Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I am State Representative Bob Foley, and I represent the citizens of District 145, which is most of the Town of Wells. I’m here today to offer my amendment to L.D. 630, “*An Act to Implement Portions of the “Protecting Maine’s Beaches for the Future: 2017 Update” Report Regarding Beach Nourishment and Dune Restoration Projects,*” which is a concept draft dealing with coastal erosion and beach nourishment issues.

My amendment is similar to an amendment this Committee offered back in the 128th Legislature in response to Resolve 2015, Chapter 66 to establish a working group “*to identify and, where necessary and appropriate, develop strategies, legislation, or other actions to assist municipalities in mitigation of coastal erosion in the State and to keep the State’s beaches healthy for protection against storms, for habitat protection for coastal wildlife species, and recreational uses.*”

Unfortunately, that unanimous committee report was vetoed by the Chief Executive at that time. My primary goal in bringing this back is to evaluate and find sand sources for beach nourishment and dune restoration projects. Coastal communities and property owners are highly interested in these types of projects. The missing component is finding the quantity and quality of materials needed. This working group, with the addition of Marine Resources, will be essential to discovering and quantifying these sources, and will likewise be responsible for the added tasks assigned by this amendment.

It is unfortunate that we, as a State, didn’t take the opportunity to start this process many years ago. This entire concept of “*Protecting Maine’s Beaches for the Future*” resulted from a task force I served on that was established by this Committee back in the early 2000s, with a report issued in 2006. Regrettably, we have wasted 20 years in dealing with the recommendations requested by that report, as well as those requested by subsequent reports, requests, and legislation. As we saw in January of 2024, time is running out.

I hope that this Committee will once again take the lead in finding the solutions needed for beach nourishment and dune restoration projects that will restore valuable habitat for the wildlife that requires it, and the human beings that desire it.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.