



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

**TESTIMONY OF
ROB WOOD, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND RESOURCES
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

SPEAKING NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 630

**RESOLVE, TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF PORTIONS OF THE
'PROTECTING MAINE'S BEACHES FOR THE FUTURE: 2017 UPDATE' REPORT
REGARDING BEACH NOURISHMENT AND DUNE RESTORATION PROJECTS**

PRESENTED BY REP. FOLEY

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

DATE OF HEARING:

APRIL 29, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Committee, my name is Rob Wood and I am the Director of the Bureau of Land Resources at the Department of Environmental Protection. I am speaking neither for nor against L.D. 630.

The proposed resolve identifies many important goals. Some of these goals are already being addressed through ongoing legislative and agency initiatives. Governor Mills recently signed into law L.D. 1 which, in part, creates a new State Resilience Office at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The State Resilience Office will assist municipalities in ways that will achieve many of the components of section 1, subsection 1 of the proposed resolve. The Maine Geological Survey (MGS) and the Maine Coastal Program also provide many resources to coastal municipalities consistent with the goals

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

of this subsection. For example, MGS regularly provides technical assistance to coastal municipalities regarding coastal erosion and the development and implementation of beach and shoreline management projects.

Additionally, DEP has taken steps to streamline permitting for the use of certain sources of sand for beach nourishment and dune restoration activities, consistent with section 1, subsection 2 of the proposed resolve. Specifically, DEP has proposed updates to our Chapter 305 Natural Resources Protection Act – Permit by Rule (PBR) Standards to allow dredged sand to be used for beach nourishment and dune restoration through permit by rule. DEP is also considering changes to our Chapter 418 rules governing beneficial use of solid wastes that would streamline beneficial use permitting for beach nourishment and dune restoration activities when environmentally appropriate.

Section 1, subsection 4 of the proposed resolve highlights the importance of funding for beach management projects. The Department agrees that consistent funding is important. Last year, the Legislature created the Coastal Sand Dune Restoration and Protection Fund and seeded it with \$1 million. DEP anticipates awarding most of this funding in 2025. A consistent source of funding would allow ongoing use of this new program.

Beyond these specific efforts, however, the Department is concerned about the scope of the resolve and the timeline for reporting back to the Legislature. It would be very difficult to satisfy the requirements of the resolve by the beginning of 2026 with existing staff resources. Department staff have spoken with the bill sponsor, and we understand that one of the primary goals of the resolve is to investigate the feasibility of locating and using new sources of sand for beach nourishment activities. This is specifically articulated in section 1, subsection 2 of the proposed resolve. The Department agrees that identifying sustainable sources of sand for beach nourishment is important. Such an exercise could be more or less complex, depending on the level of detail desired, and it would likely require MGS to play a leading role. In considering new sources of sand, it will also be important to discuss the environmental considerations involved in

L.D. 630: Resolve, to Facilitate Implementation of Portions of the 'Protecting Maine's Beaches for the Future: 2017 Update' Report Regarding Beach Nourishment and Dune Restoration Projects

Testimony of: Rob Wood, Director, Bureau of Land Resources, DEP

Public Hearing: April 29, 2025

Page 3 of 3

extracting and using the sand, whether the sand is from marine or upland sources. This discussion should involve, at a minimum, DEP, MGS, the Department of Marine Resources, and the Maine Coastal Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee, both now and at the work session.