



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION, AND FORESTRY
IN SUPPORT OF LD 2006

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Make Certain Land Transactions in Aroostook and Somerset Counties

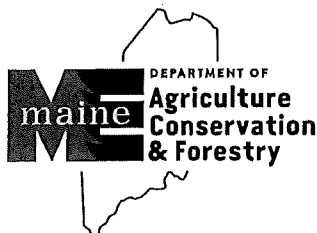
January 7, 2026

Senator Ross, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, my name is Andy Cutko, and I am the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). I am speaking in favor of LD 2006, *Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Make Certain Land Transactions in Aroostook and Somerset Counties*.

The resolve would authorize the Bureau of Parks and Lands to convey the State's interest in lots in three different locations.

- In Westmanland, Aroostook County, the Town has requested that the Bureau convey, without cost, the State's interest in approximately seven acres of Public Reserved Land to the Town of Westmanland. The seven acres represent the section of the Little Madawaska Lake Road that is currently designated as Maine Public Reserved Lands under the Bureau of Parks and Lands. The purpose of the conveyance is to enable the Town to improve and maintain this section of road by which several Town property taxpayers access their property. Bureau staff support this transfer with the conditions, including a reverter clause as well as Town payment of any transaction costs.
- In Seboomook Township, the resolve authorizes the Bureau of Parks and Lands to sell to the owners of 51 Sebey Lane in Big W Township, approximately 0.25 acres of Public Reserved Land. The parcel represents the land containing an existing septic system that serves 51 Sebey Lane, which was installed prior to State ownership of the land. Due to the small size and modest value, the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands would negotiate a price for the land or, if needed, obtain an appraisal that shall be paid for by the buyer. The buyer will pay all transaction costs, including survey, legal, and recording costs for the transaction.

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- In Presque Isle, Aroostook County, the Resolve authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to engage in a minor land exchange of less than 0.25 acre with Towers North, Inc. The land swap will rectify a recently identified boundary issue in which a communication tower occupies a very small portion of state land. Towers North Inc. will pay all transaction costs, including legal and recording costs for the transaction. Because this transaction will be an exchange rather than a conveyance, it will not constitute a reduction in state ownership and therefore does not require legislative approval. However, we have included it here for general awareness.

I would be happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.