

Transportation
Maine Legislature
Taxation Committee
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

January 8, 2026

Re: LD 2028, Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in West Forks Plantation and The Forks Plantation the Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr. Bridge.

Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Garnett Robinson, a resident of Dixmont Maine. I am a Certified Maine Assessor, Real Estate Appraiser and owner of Maine Assessment & Appraisal Services, Inc., a small company that provides assessing and revaluation services throughout Maine including the Forks and West Forks. I am a Master Maine Guide going on 40 years, former Forest Ranger who was born in Skowhegan and lived the first few years of my life in the Forks Plt and now more importantly am a seasonal camp owner of a hunting and fishing camp in the West Forks.

Thank you for letting me address your Board as you consider this legislation to rename the Bridge on Route 201 crossing the Kennebec River between the Forks and West Forks Plantations. Having grown up in and having spent my entire life either visiting, working or recreating in the Forks area, I feel compelled to support this legislation. Gordon Berry who I have known my entire life was proud to be a lifelong resident of the Forks and West Forks. He was also proud to be the second-generation owner for nearly 50 years of Berry's General Store in the West Forks. Gordon epitomized what true citizenship should look like. No he would never hold an elected office or even discuss politics except in generalities. He would though, let anyone running for office put up signs on his community board and would cheerfully turn any heated political arguments he was near into an opportunity to discuss how the local fishing or hunting was progressing.

His real talent was in giving. As member and later fire chief of the local volunteer fire department for 40 years he was always first on scene whether it was tragic car or snowmobile accidents, fires or distressed residents waiting for an ambulance. He often hosted jars raising money for victims or residents in need in his store along with supplying groceries, free plowing or firewood to suffering residents only based on need not their ability to pay after these events and spent many nights in the freezing cold instead of a warm bed because he knew he was needed. If anyone was stuck, broken down, lost or needed help getting their moose or deer out he often got the call first as they knew he would cheerfully come to their rescue.

He also was a dedicated sportsman who worked tirelessly for the Forks Fish and Game Association for most of his life and was founder of the well-known local deer feeding program as he recognized local deer yards were largely clear cut through the 70's, 80's and early 90's to the detriment of the deer herd. He loved having parents bring their young children to ride up with him and see the deer up close as he fed them. He at one time held a guide's license that he let go as he loved taking new hunters, fisherman and trappers out teaching everything from canoeing, deer hunting and fly fishing to anyone who wanted to learn for free. He owned the Historic Fish Pond Camps and knew the history of the region and it's residents better than any historian and was proud of the local heritage and the people who made their lives there and loved to share it with anyone who would listen.

He was an irreplaceable fixture and loved as evidenced by the crowd who attended his remembrance last fall. For this and too many reasons to be listed, iterated and articulated in 3 minutes I ask that you please move this Bill to a vote with an aught to pass from the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,



Garnett Robinson,
Proud to have known Gordon Berry