



Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry  
% Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

February 24, 2026

**RE: LD 1054, An Act to Amend Certain Definitions in the Laws Governing Conservation Easements**

Dear Sen. Talbot Ross, Rep. Pluecker, and Members of the ACF Committee:

My name is Francesca "Ches" Gundrum and I am Maine Audubon's Director of Advocacy. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation nonprofit – we fulfill our mission to "conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat" by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1054, *An Act to Amend Certain Definitions in the Laws Governing Conservation Easements*.

Wabanaki people have lived in this place we now call Maine for millenia with an understanding of and connection to natural resources far deeper than ours today. Their stewardship was interrupted by the colonization of these lands which resulted in the Wabanaki Nations losing 98% of their population and access to most of the lands, waters, and wildlife that they have lived in relationship with for thousands of years. It is past time to help restore the inherent power and rights of the Wabanaki Nations to make decisions that affect their lands, waters, and communities.

Without question, Wabanaki Tribes should absolutely have the right to hold conservation easements. Ensuring that Wabanaki Tribes have access to the same legal tools as towns and nonprofits to care for culturally significant and other lands is critical. **We encourage the Committee to support LD 1054.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francesca Gundrum".

Francesca "Ches" Gundrum  
*Director of Advocacy*