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#### Yes on LD 324

The purchase of land by the government is not the answer to our public land use issues. In fact it is a very slippery slope if we allow government to purchase more land. I worked for Great Northern Paper Company for 43 years. During that period of time I have witnessed the environmental zealots try and take control of land that employed thousands of people especially in northern Maine. In the 80's they stopped the Dickey Lincoln Dam Project. Then when Great Northern Paper Co. wanted to build a dam on the Penobscot River known as the Big A Dam Project, environmental groups such as The Nature Conservancy, The Appalachian Mountain Club along with the State of Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and a host of other environmental organizations and individuals signed for intervener status in the application to build the dam. In the end Great Northern could have built the dam if they were able to jump through the 23 hoops set up to stop the project. The outcome was what we see today, Great Northern is gone along with thousands of jobs.

I am not against the state owning land for public use, to a point. However I have witnessed what happens when the government gets involved with land ownership? It is not controlled by the people of Maine. It is controlled by outside environmental groups. They have the money and the power to push their agendas through, and they have infiltrated our own state government. Conservation easements are another way they gain a foothold in Maine. The residents of Maine are widely spread out. This is a two Maine issue. When the government takes over land, especially in Northern Maine, it has a tremendous effect on taxes.

I urge you to pass LD 324 to protect private ownership of land in Maine and put a cap on government ownership.

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