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130th MAINE SENATE

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**L.D. 486, Resolve, Directing the Bureau of Parks and Lands To
Convey Certain Land in Township 12, Range 13 WELS in Exchange for
Other Land in Township 11, Range 10 WELS
Presented by Senator Brad Farrin
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
March 9, 2021**

Good afternoon Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee: I am Senator Brad Farrin and I have the honor of representing the people of Senate District 3, which includes most of Somerset County and one town in Kennebec County. I am before you today to present L.D. 486, a Resolve, which if amended, will place the Bureau of Parks and Lands in full control of the Public Lot now held in common and undivided ownership with Clayton Lake Woodland on Township 12, Range 13, WELS.

Parts of Maine are considered Public Lots that fall under the ownership of the State of Maine. However, certain lots are held in common and undivided interest with private land owners. As I understand it, the majority owner currently makes the land management decisions. The bill and amendment before you specifically addresses one of those Public Lots that is located in Township 12, Range 13 WELS (T 12, R 13). In regard to the T 12, R 13 land, it is a private landowner making the management decisions, rather than those decisions being made by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. While I have concerns over forcing private landowners to do certain things, I do believe we have a responsibility to our public lands. This legislation will give the state total control and decision making as it relates to this particular Public Lot.

I should note that I submitted this legislation at the request of a constituent, Mr. Doug Denico, who you will hear from today and who can explain in greater detail the importance of this legislation. I thank you for your consideration and would ask that you hold questions for Mr. Denico.