



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
NEW ENGLAND**

March 23, 2021

Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

**Re: LD 700 - An Act To Promote Economic Development and Outdoor
Recreation through Investment in State Parks**

Dear Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry:

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) is the fastest growing hunting and angling group in North America. A key component of BHA's mission is to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing by advocating for programs and policies that improve public access to hunting and fishing areas.

The past year has shown the great value of accessible outdoor places for recreation, but increased use of aging infrastructure amplified the need for capital improvements at our State Parks. This bill will ensure that there is a dedicated source of revenue to be used as the required match for federal money available from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Participating in the LWCF Program effectively doubles the capital funding for improvements to state parks and historic sites. We urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

John Simoneau, New England Chapter Secretary and
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Durham, ME
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Maine Vice-Chair
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