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**Testimony of Senator Russell Black before the Joint Standing Committee on
Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry**

LD 1690, Resolve, To Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. I am Senator Russell Black and I represent Senate District 17. I am here today to present LD 1690, *Resolve, To Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley*.

This resolve amends the deed transferring land from the State to the Town of Carrabassett Valley to remove the prohibition against using the land for a commercial purpose. The current lot size is 1203 acres and this deed change is only to 25 acres of it and would leave 1178 acres still undeveloped.

I was contacted by the town of Carrabassett Valley to put this legislation in to change the deed as the town and Sugarloaf are working on a significant infrastructure project at the town owned Sugarloaf Outdoor Center, which the town leases to Sugarloaf. The town reached out to the Bureau of Parks and Lands about this project and the Bureau advised the town to seek clarification on the deed from the Legislature. I want to be clear as I have heard from some folks asking if this deed change would allow the project to go forward. The answer is no, any projects that take place at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center would need to follow the towns approval process and be approved by the residents. The town manager of Carrabassett Valley David Cota will be testifying and can explain the changes to the deed needed and details of the project that the town and Sugarloaf maybe planning.

In closing the town of Carrabassett Valley and Sugarloaf have done a great job building a tourism based economy and respecting the lands and I ask that the committee work with them and support this deed change. Thank you.