

March 20, 2023

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Bill Pluecker, Chair
Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
100 State House Station, Room 214
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill titled "Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Conduct an Accessibility Study of All Maine State Parks and Historic Sites and to Develop a Plan to Remove Access Barriers."

As a person with a disability who uses a wheelchair, I know firsthand the challenges that can arise when trying to access outdoor recreational spaces.

Living in Sabattus, Maine, I have always enjoyed spending time outdoors with my family. However, I have often found access to certain areas of Maine's state parks difficult or limited due to physical barriers that make it difficult or impossible for me to navigate.

I believe that universal design works for everyone, and that by making Maine's state parks more accessible, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience the natural beauty of our state. This bill would be an important step in that direction by directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to conduct an accessibility study of all Maine State Parks and Historic Sites and develop a plan to remove access barriers.

I urge you to support this bill and help make Maine's state parks and historic sites accessible to all. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Trite