



Testimony of the Island Institute in Support of LD 1285, An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program

April 10, 2023

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, the Island Institute is offering this testimony in support of LD 1285.

The Island Institute's work focuses on building economic, climate and community resilience in support of Maine's island and coastal communities. We work with communities where 1 in 5 residents hold a lobster license, and where access to a robust working waterfront is critical to the survival of businesses and to the economic wellbeing of families. Maine's working waterfront is under threat, with only 20-miles remaining along 3,500 miles of coastline. Land for Maine's Future's Working Waterfront Access Protection Program (WWAPP) is an important tool for providing long-term protection of working waterfront properties. While the program currently has funds, the lack of consistent funding for the last 10 years and a heavy reliance on bond funds makes it harder for working waterfront businesses to understand the program, whether it might be good fit for them and plan for their options.

We support moving LD 1285 forward to ensure a consistent source of funding for LMF, along with a commitment to fund WWAPP, to help secure the future of working waterfront infrastructure and Maine's marine economy.