

Representative Lydia Crafts  
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**Testimony regarding LD 440: “An Act To Conserve the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark”**

Good afternoon Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and my esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

I am Representative Lydia Crafts and I live in Newcastle. I am here today to testify in support of LD 440, “An Act To Conserve the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark.”

Many of us here in this virtual committee room know what it’s like to serve on local boards tasked with preserving a building, an estate, or a person’s personal or professional legacy. To do this well, it requires passion, dedication, organization, creativity, and resourcefulness. I speak with confidence when I attest that the France Perkins Center of Newcastle/Damariscotta demonstrates all of these attributes in their tireless work to preserve and promote the legacy of former Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins.

Today’s legislation is a tiny fraction of the overall Homestead preservation price; the Center has already raised \$3.1 million, including the National Parks Service Save America’s Treasures grant of \$500,000. LD 440 will secure matching funds and allow for the public use of a National Historic Landmark moving forward.

As a mother raising two daughters just down the road from the Frances Perkins Homestead, I am proud to offer testimony today to recognize, uphold, and promote the legacy of our nation’s first female cabinet secretary and hope you will join me in supporting this legislation.