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Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin supporting
**LD 440, An Act To Conserve the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic
Landmark**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 440, An Act To Conserve the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark.

The Frances Perkins Homestead is in Newcastle, the heart of my district. I was proud to introduce this legislation on behalf of the Frances Perkins Center. They have tirelessly advocated for this homestead and to honor the memory of the great Frances Perkins.

Frances Perkins was the U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1933-45. She was the first female cabinet secretary and the driving force behind New Deal programs including those that still provide financial security for all Americans: Social Security, unemployment insurance, and minimum wage. She held this position for twelve years, making her the longest serving Secretary of Labor in U.S. history. She is an American pioneer. Frances Perkins is buried near her homestead in Newcastle's Glidden Cemetery.

Perkins' family home is in Newcastle, Maine. They owned and occupied the property from the 1750's-2019. Frances Perkins owned it from 1927-1965. The homestead is an 1837 Brick House surrounded by 57 acres along the banks of the Damariscotta River. In 2014, it was listed as a National Historic Landmark. Maine Preservation designated the Perkins Family Homestead as one of Maine's 2018 most endangered historic sites.

The Frances Perkins Center, which became the owner of the Frances Perkins Homestead in January 2020, is in the process of preserving the Perkins Family Homestead for public use in perpetuity through the renovation of the Homestead and maintenance of the surrounding property. The National Park Service awarded a \$500,000 Save America's Treasures grant to this project in August 2020. This a very competitive grant. The Frances Perkins Center now must provide \$824,000 in matching funds, including in-kind service, to meet the NPS grant requirements. **The match is required by the National**



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Treasures Grant that the Center received from the federal government. The Center has already received a \$500,000 gift toward the match. A \$100,000 appropriation from the State of Maine will help the Center fill in the rest. The State of Maine will join in partnership with the National Park Service and Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust that holds a conservation easement on 53 acres of the 57-acre homestead property.

How would this funding be used? The use of the Frances Perkins Homestead as a historical site open to public visits and education will generate publicity and additional cultural interest in keeping with the character and charm of the Twin Villages of Damariscotta and Newcastle, bringing economic benefit to local communities and Maine's tourism industry. The State of Maine will receive perpetual recognition at the Frances Perkins Homestead, alongside the National Park Service and Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Chloe Maxmin