

**Ronald L. and Suzanne C. Phillips  
262 Friendship Street  
Waldoboro, ME 04572**

**In Support of L.D. 440  
An Act To Conserve the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark  
To the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
March 3rd, 2021**

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan, and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am pleased to offer support of LD 440 – an *Act to Conserve the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark*. My name is Ron Phillips, a resident of Waldoboro, and retired founder/CEO of Coastal Enterprises, Inc. in Brunswick.

CEI is a past recipient of the Frances Perkins Center's annual Steadfast Award given at their summertime Garden Party at the Homestead in Newcastle. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that try to carry out the spirit of the *Social Compact* philosophy that guided Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins in the many legislative initiatives under FDR, such as the *Social Security Act*. The principles of *Social Compact* - integral to the founding of this nation – advocate for a government that provides the best life possible for all its citizens.

Why the Homestead? LD 440 sharpens our understanding of the importance of these concepts and projects that shouldn't be lost to history. The Homestead is something worth investing in. I've looked at a lot of buildings, real estate, housing, small business, and nonprofit finance over time, and offer the following:

**Vision:** First, LD 440 is about the vision of the Frances Perkins Center to represent the *Social Compact* principles and philosophy of government Frances Perkins advocated for. The Homestead tethers our identity to a real person and a real time in the history of this nation who devoted her life to enfranchising ordinary working Americans.

**Programs:** Second, the Francis Perkins Center organization has developed a solid track record of educational programs, exhibits, youth and student internships, tours and lectures that nurtures the *Social Compact* principles sorely needed in our current times. It's a busy place and a resource for our schools and communities to ask the questions about current policies.

**Management:** And third, is its management. The State of Maine's investment will be put to good use. With its board and staff, the Francis Perkins Center is a strong and able organization. The State's funds will follow many others helping to knit together the necessary funds to purchase the Homestead and secure its future.

In conclusion: *LD 440 will support A great Vision, excellent Programs and terrific Management – a great recipe to honor a great woman, to help secure our future by advancing our understanding of Social Compact principles.*

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of LD 440.

Ronald L. Phillips [ronphillips262@gmail.com](mailto:ronphillips262@gmail.com) 207.632.1233