



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

A Statewide Land Conservation Organization

Testimony in Support of:

LD 1488: Resolve, To Study and Recommend Improvements to Maine's Dam Safety

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Jeff Romano. I am providing testimony on behalf of Maine Coast Heritage Trust in support of LD 1488.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. We provide statewide conservation leadership through our work with land trusts, coastal communities, and other partners. Over the past four decades, we have conserved more than 142,000 acres in Maine.

LD 1488 will provide Maine people and communities with much needed information regarding the status of existing dams throughout the state. Modelled after similar efforts in neighboring states, the resolve will help categorize existing dams and identify those which pose significant risks due to their age and likelihood of failure.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust continues to work with partners and communities up and down the coast of Maine on river restoration efforts. The information that would be generated through this resolve would be beneficial as we and others assess the best places to invest limited resources, balance public safety, consider climate change impacts, and enhance fish passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this bill. We encourage the Committee to vote ought to pass on LD 1488.