



Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

January 10, 2023

RE: LD 2034, An Act to Address Identified Gaps in the Laws Governing Erosion Control and the Natural Resources Protection Act

Dear Sen. Brenner, Rep. Gramlich, and Members of the ENR Committee:

My name is Francesca “Ches” Gundrum and I am Maine Audubon’s Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation non-profit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine’s wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 2034, *An Act to Address Identified Gaps in the Laws Governing Erosion Control and the Natural Resources Protection Act*.

LD 2034 suggests two amendments to two important Maine laws which both help prevent the destruction of Maine’s natural resources: the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law and the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). These changes would 1) amend Maine’s Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law to help prevent unreasonable erosion of soil or sediment statewide – instead of applying only in the organized areas of the state, and 2) clarify that the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) and Maine Forest Service (MFS) have enforcement authority pursuant to their delegated authority under NRPA.

Maine Audubon supports this legislation as an opportunity to close existing gaps in both laws in order to help ensure the protection of Maine’s natural resources throughout the entire state. As Maine navigates ongoing and unexpected challenges impacting our environment, it is essential that our state’s natural resource agencies are able to work *together* to fully administer their delegated authorities under Maine law.

We hope you join us in supporting this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francesca Gundrum".

Francesca “Ches” Gundrum | Policy Advocate