

Jeff McCabe
Skowhegan
LD 2028

My name is Jeff McCabe, and I am a resident of Skowhegan. I submit this testimony in support of the LD 2028 Resolve to rename a bridge in West Forks Plantation and The Forks Plantation the Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr. Bridge. I offer this testimony as a citizen of the State of Maine, a friend of the Berry family, and not in any official state capacity.

I have had the honor and privilege of knowing the Berry family for more than 25 years, and I admire them for many reasons. When I think about how to describe them, words like hard-working, kind, caring, friendly, resourceful, generous, and welcoming come to mind. My first visit to Berry's Store was in the late 1990s, and to this day I still get excited every time I walk through that door, whether I need anything or not.

Unfortunately, my work prevents me from being able to testify in person today, and I wish I could be there to hear the stories being shared. I want to thank the bill sponsor for submitting this resolve, as I know she and her family have strong ties to the Berry family and to Gordon. I also want to thank the Berry family for all that you do and for the hard work you continue to put into your community.

I have worked seasonally in the Upper Kennebec Valley for over two decades, and during that time I have witnessed the Berry family support the community in countless ways—through their time, financial support, and generosity. When I attended Gordon's memorial services and heard the stories shared, it became clear that what I had long suspected was true. Gordon supported people and businesses both larger and smaller than his own, simply because he was a good human being who genuinely cared about his community.

To me, Gordon remains larger than life. He was an avid outdoorsman, and his knowledge of the woods was legendary. Over the years, I have known of many acts of kindness carried out by Gordon—not because he sought recognition, but because others felt compelled to share how his generosity had impacted them.

Renaming this bridge is a well-deserved tribute to a great Mainer and a great human being. It is also a fitting recognition of Gordon's family, who continue his legacy of hard work and community support. Our state is a better place because of Gordon, and many of us are better people for having crossed paths with him.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I wish you all the best in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Jeff McCabe
Skowhegan