



Tumbledown Mountain by Bill Amos

## Support Land for Maine's Future and Maine's State Parks

### Support: LD 983 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote Land Conservation, Working Waterfronts, Water Access, and Outdoor Recreation

**Sponsored by:** Sen. Cathy Breen of Cumberland

**Co-sponsored by:** Rep. Pat Corey of Windham, Rep. Michelle Dunphy of Old Town, Speaker Ryan Fecteau of Biddeford, Senate President Troy Jackson of Aroostook, Rep. Teresa Pierce of Falmouth, Sen. Eloise Vitelli of Sagadahoc

For more information, please contact  
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*LD 983 would expand access to Maine's natural and working lands by providing \$60 million in new bond funding for the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program and \$20 million in bond funding to invest in State Parks. LMF has not received any new funding since 2012, and our increasingly popular State Parks are in desperate need of maintenance and improvement.*

### Maine's Most Successful Conservation Program

- Since 1987, LMF has helped to permanently protect more than 600,000 acres of land in all 16 Maine counties, including:
  - ✓ More than 9,755 acres of **farmland**
  - ✓ 26 commercial **working waterfront** properties
  - ✓ More than 1,272 miles of **shoreline** and 58 miles of **coastline**
  - ✓ More than 332,000 acres of **working forestlands**
- LMF is a smart investment in the future, attracting more than \$3 in federal and private funding for every dollar invested by the state.
- Maine voters have repeatedly approved LMF funding over the past 30 years with more than 60% support statewide.

### Supporting a Wide Range of Uses

- LMF locations belong to all Mainers and support a variety of uses.
- LMF has protected some of the state's most stunning natural lands, including:
  - ✓ Popular hiking locations at Tumbledown Mountain, Gulf Hagas-Whitecap, Mt. Kineo on Moosehead Lake, the Bold Coast in Cutler, and Mount Agamenticus in York County.
  - ✓ The 28-mile Aroostook Valley Trail that is open to biking, hiking, snowmobiling, ATV riding, horseback riding, and other uses.
  - ✓ The 55,578-acre Downeast Lakes Community Forest, famous for fishing, hunting, hiking, and other activities.

## **\$60 Million to Revitalize Land for Maine's Future**

- Investing in LMF means investing in Maine's forestry, farming, fishing, and tourism industries.
- A five-year, \$60 million bond would allow Maine to resume investment in the natural resources that are the backbone of the state's economy, and provide municipalities, land trusts, and state agencies with the predictable funding needed to make many projects successful.
- Hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland and forestland will likely change ownership throughout the next decade given Maine's aging landowner population. With five-year funding for LMF, landowners will have the security and confidence to engage in long-term conservation planning.



## **\$20 Million to Support Maine's State Parks**

- Maine's 48 State Parks and Historic Sites are more popular now than ever. During 2020, our State Parks experienced the highest visitation ever, with more than 3 million total visits that boosted local economies and provided important revenue for the state.
- Maine State Parks currently have a \$50 million maintenance backlog, and Maine hasn't built a new State Park facility (such as a campground) in more than 40 years.
- \$20 million in funding for State Parks infrastructure would allow Maine to make meaningful progress at decreasing the backlog to ensure that visitors can have safe, accessible, and positive visits.

## **There Has Never Been a Better Time to Reinvest in LMF and Maine State Parks**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has drawn Mainers and visitors to the outdoors in record numbers, creating demand for recreational infrastructure like trails, parks, and boat launches. It has also increased reliance on local food growers and harvesters.
- As demand for Maine real estate grows, there is increasing urgency to secure public conserved land and access to it to support recreation and the natural resource-based businesses that are critical to our economy.
- In 2020, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund was fully, permanently funded, which will bring millions of dollars to Maine for conservation projects and matching funds for LMF.
- Conserving forests, open space, and farmland is a critical strategy to help Maine communities adapt to future uncertainties and meet our state's climate goals.



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