

20 KENDALL LANE, PERRY ME 04667 • 207-214-1124

Monday, April 26, 2021

RE: Testimony in Support of LD 983

Dear Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 983. My name is Georgie Kendall. I am a real estate agent based in Perry, Maine. I also own and operate Kendall Farm Cottages & Event Barn in Perry. I am a 5th generation owner of a small lakeside farmstead and cottage rental business in Washington County.

I believe that the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) has been a very effective state conservation program that has protected hundreds of projects across all 16 Maine counties. The program benefits all Maine people who appreciate opportunities to visit the wonderful public lands that have been protected through the LMF program. I am aware that LMF has not received new funding since 2012 and is essentially unable to pursue additional worthy projects. That's why I support a five-year, \$60 million bond, as proposed by LD 983

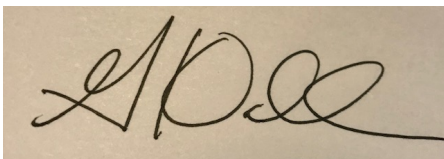
Attached to this letter is also a letter in support of the Land for Maine's Future program signed by 27 Maine realtors, including myself. Collectively, we understand the value that LMF brings to Maine real estate and the quality of life here.

As our letter points out, LMF sites increase the value of nearby homes and properties. We believe access to the outdoors is a key element contributing to the recent, dramatic increase in demand for Maine real estate. LMF has protected land for public access located near to where people live and work, but the program has also supported projects in all corners of the state and has protected treasured places like Mount Agamenticus, some of the forest and shoreline at Grand Lake Stream here in Washington County, Tumbledown Mountain, and Nahmakanta Public Reserve near Millinocket, to name a few.

These places protected for public access by LMF are part of Maine's identity as an outdoor destination and as a community that values stewardship of its lands and waters. I also find that my clients appreciate knowing that locally grown and harvested food is easy to find in Maine. LMF supports working lands, like farms and seafood businesses, which are important parts of the state economy. All of this makes Maine more marketable to homebuyers.

LMF is an important state program and a prudent investment for current and future generations of Mainers. I respectfully urge the Committee to vote to Pass LD 983. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'G Kendall'.

Georgie Kendall, Realtor and owner of Kendall Farm Cottages and Event Barn