

LD 1702 - An Act To Authorize General Fund Bond Issues To Improve Transportation and National Guard Infrastructure and To Promote the Conservation of Land, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation

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Honorable Committee Chairs Senator Breen & Representative Pierce and Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on *LD 1702 – An Act To Authorize General Fund Bond Issues To Improve Transportation and National Guard Infrastructure and To Promote the Conservation of Land, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation*.

Acadia Center is a non-profit, research and advocacy organization incorporated in Maine and committed to advancing the clean energy future by offering real-world solutions to the climate crisis. Acadia Center tackles complex problems, identifies clear recommendations for reforms, and advocates to create significant change that supports a low-carbon economy across the Northeast which can then be a model for application elsewhere. Acadia Center identifies regional, state, and local improvements that will dramatically reduce carbon pollution and improve quality of life throughout the Northeastern United States.

Acadia Center Supports LD 1702

Maine’s extensive natural forests play an essential role in capturing atmospheric carbon. Currently, Maine forestland sequesters the equivalent of 60% of Maine’s greenhouse gas emissions and hold a tremendous potential – with greater focus and investment – to sequester even more carbon and offset further emissions from all other sectors of Maine’s economy. Acadia Center’s believes Maine, with its nearly 90 percent forested lands, is key to any robust state, regional, and national climate action. LD 1702 is one tool needed to protect and conserve natural lands and waters through a funding source that increases carbon storage opportunities, avoids emissions, and enhances climate adaptation and resilience.

Acadia Center supports “Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action Plan” and its recommendations to increase by 2030 conserved lands with additional targets for forest cover, agricultural lands, and coastal areas. Funding is necessary to meet these important targets and goals. Funding the Land for Maine’s Future is critical to the Climate Action Plan priority strategies. Acadia Center appreciates the leadership of Governor Mills, Rep. Pierce, and other LMF bond proposal sponsors and supporters, and looks forward to working with the Committee to ensure that any bond funds build on the solid programs already in place and fulfil the goals and targets in the Maine Climate Action Plan.

For more information:

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