



Tumbledown Mountain by Leslie Burhoe

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

### **Support: LD 911** **An Act to Authorize** **a General Fund Bond** **Issue to Promote** **Land Conservation,** **Working Waterfronts,** **Water Access, and** **Other Recreation**

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

**Co-sponsored by:** Rep. Pat Corey of Windham and 103 other Senators and Representatives

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*This bill, LD 911, proposes to strengthen Maine's legacy of conserving special places for future generations by providing \$75 million in new bond funding for the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program and \$20 million in bond funding to invest in Maine's State Parks. LMF is Maine's most successful and popular land conservation program, but it has not received any new funding since 2012. At the same time, our State Parks are in desperate need of investment.*

#### **What is Land for Maine's Future?**

- Since 1987, LMF has helped to permanently protect more than 500,000 acres of conservation land, including:
  - ✓ More than 9,700 acres of **farmland**
  - ✓ 24 commercial **working waterfront** properties
  - ✓ More than 1,200 miles of **coastline**
  - ✓ More than 332,000 acres of **working forestlands**
- LMF has protected land in all 16 counties, from Mt. Kineo on Moosehead Lake to the Bold Coast in Cutler, and from Mount Agamenticus in York County to the 61-mile Bangor & Aroostook Trail that starts in Caribou.
- With its matching fund requirement, LMF unlocks access to federal and private funds for conservation projects. The \$75 million would be provided to LMF over five years and would leverage at least \$75 million in additional funding, and possibly two or three times that amount.
- Maine voters have repeatedly approved funding for LMF over the past 30 years, consistently winning with more than 60% support statewide.

#### **\$75 Million to Revitalize Land for Maine's Future**

- Investing in LMF means investing in Maine's forestry, farming, fishing, and tourism industries.
- Given the absence of LMF funding during most of the last decade, a five-year, \$75 million bond will allow Maine to resume investment in the natural resources that are the backbone of the state's economy.

- A reliable, well-funded LMF program can help leverage federal and private matching grants for land conservation and provide municipalities, land trusts, and state agencies with the predictable funding needed to make many projects successful.
- Hundreds of thousands of acres of farm 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.
- LMF funding supports all types of land conservation projects that help protect the character of Maine, provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and water access, and support Maine's natural resource-based industries.

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

- Maine's 48 State Parks and Historic Sites are more popular now than ever. During 2018, our State Parks experienced the highest visitation ever, with close to 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.
- 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 will allow Maine to make meaningful progress at decreasing the backlog to ensure that State Park visitors can have safe, accessible, and positive visits to Maine's protected lands.

**An October 2016 Critical Insights poll asked Maine voters: "Do you support providing funding for the Land for Maine's Future program, which conserves land for public access and traditional uses, and preserves farmland and working waterfronts?" The results showed support across all voter subgroups.**

## Support for Land for Maine's Future Across All Voter Subgroups

