



*Maine State Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002*

April 21, 2015

Governor Paul LePage
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor LePage:

We write to urge your full support of the Knight's Pond & Blueberry Hill project in the towns of Cumberland and North Yarmouth. The last remaining step left to complete the project for a closing with the landowner in June is the release of monies awarded through the Land for Maine's Future program.

Just as the people of Maine have voted in support of the LMF Program, the people of Cumberland and North Yarmouth have also cast their votes in favor of acquiring the Knight's Pond & Blueberry Hill property. The 215-acre project has the unanimous and final support of the Cumberland Town Council following public hearing as well as the unanimous support of the North Yarmouth Selectmen and its citizens at the recent town meeting. The two communities have invested heavily, voting for a total of \$400,000 in municipal funds. These votes are the culmination of decades of planning and waiting for the opportunity to purchase the property to benefit all the people in the region.

In addition to these municipal investments, more than 200 private donor households and businesses have contributed more than \$460,000 to the project.

Every dollar raised, both publically and privately, affirms the investment, risk and hard work undertaken to make this project possible. It also underscores the importance of LMF to help leverage funds and ensure that the interests of the public are fully served. Three non-profit land trusts have worked under contract with a willing and patient private landowner for more than two years, encouraged by the highly competitive scoring that led to the \$225,000 award by the Land for Maine's Future Board. The LMF chairman personally walked the property and is very enthusiastic about the broad appeal of this project.

Governor Paul LePage
April 21, 2015
Page 2

The Knight's Pond project has the emphatic support of local snowmobile clubs, hunters and a wide range of community groups. It is an identified priority in the comprehensive plans of both towns. The forest and pond offer a great variety of recreational opportunities to many of the fast growing surrounding communities. The parcel is also identified as having natural resources of significance by two state agencies, including one of the highest value waterfowl and wading bird habitats in southern Maine and a rare hickory forest.

We invite you to join us for a tour of the property and appreciate your support.

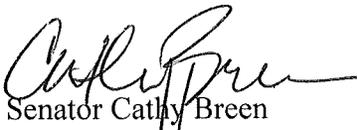
Sincerely,



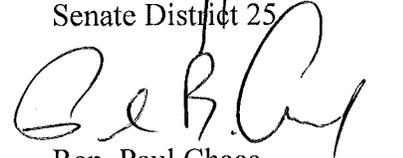
Senator Stan Gerzofsky
Senate District 24



Rep. Michael Timmons
House District 45



Senator Cathy Breen
Senate District 25



Rep. Paul Chace
House District 46

Enc: List of letters of support submitted to Land for Maine's Future program

cc: Land for Maine's Future Board of Directors
Steven Palmer, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Town of North Yarmouth
Thomas Gruber, Chairman of the Town Council, Town of Cumberland

Knight's Pond & Blueberry Hill

Land for Maine's Future Program

Letters of Support

- Town of Cumberland
- Moonlite Sno-Skimmers Snowmobile Club
- Casco Bay Estuary Project
- Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition
- Maine Audubon
- University of Maine (Calhoun)
- Bicycle Coalition of Maine
- New England Mountain Bike Association
- MSAD 51, Greely Middle School
- Congregational Church of Cumberland
- Mooney's Live Bait Shop
- Maine Outdoor Adventure Club
- Adventure Play
- Remax Heritage
- Remax By the Bay
- Then-seated legislators

Knight's Pond & Blueberry Hill

Project Partners & Major Funders

- Town of Cumberland
- Town of North Yarmouth
- The Trust for Public Land
- Private landowner
- Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust
- Royal River Conservation Trust
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant program