

CLARRY HILL HIGHLANDS, UNION



NATURE IS RESTORATIVE | NATURE IS NECESSARY | NATURE IS MIDCOAST

Dear <salutation>,

October's tragedy in Lewiston affected me more personally than I could have imagined. Most days the world's challenges and heartaches, including environmental threats, seem to be distant, not on our doorstep and not going to consume us imminently. But the incident in Lewiston and its aftermath felt like it was in my community and it created a psychic shift for me. As I drove through the eerily empty streets of Brunswick the morning after the shooting, suddenly the impossible became possible, even in Maine. I felt our collective vulnerability; it was both personal and existential. This local tragedy felt like it knit all the world's crises together and laid them at my doorstep.

When I returned home to Montville later that day my walk in the woods felt as good as it ever had. The world here was familiar and unchanged. It made sense. I was reminded that this is a compelling and necessary time to redouble my efforts and protect what makes the midcoast so special.

An important aspect of the environmental work that I have been engaged with for decades is that it puts me solidly in relationship with people. Our shared objectives and bringing awareness to what makes our lives possible is grounding and life-affirming—and it is a powerful connection with others. **Undoing the blockages of a free-flowing river or protecting a living piece of land with valued friends and community is as good as it gets.**

As you may know, Midcoast Conservancy is searching for a new executive director and we are excited to continue honing our focus and initiatives under new leadership. We are poised to make a big impact with our bold 30x30 conservation vision to double the amount of our conserved lands. This vital work is made possible by your support. **I am deeply appreciative of the staff, board members, volunteers, and you, our supporters, who continually show up to move our vision forward for a better world.**

Your continued support allows us to be resolute in strengthening the foundation of our lives and communities and confronting the varied challenges we face from climate change and political uncertainty to direct environmental threats. Your generosity matters and we need it now more than ever.

Thank you for supporting our vision.

With respect,

Buck O'Herin, President of the Board

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