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Testimony in Opposition to LD 1040, An Act Regarding Permitting Under the Natural Resources Protection Act

**Garrison Beck, Director of Water Conservation, Midcoast Conservancy
March 30, 2017**

Senator Saviello, Representative Tucker, and distinguished members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Garrison Beck and I am the Director of Water Conservation for Midcoast Conservancy. Midcoast Conservancy's mission is to protect and promote healthy lands, waters, and communities through conservation, outdoor adventure, and learning. We work in the lands and waters surrounding the Sheepscot River and Damariscotta Lake, from Wiscasset to Montville. We are supported by 1,600 members who live throughout midcoast and central Maine and beyond.

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to LD 1040, An Act Regarding Permitting Under the Natural Resources Protection Act. This bill significantly alters the authority of the Department of Environmental Protection to protect Maine's natural resources. Our primary concern with this bill is that there seems no logical justification for such detailed changes across the Natural Resources Protection Act. This bill seems to present a laundry list of items which collectively give no clear picture of how this bill will improve Maine's environment *or* economy.

This bill would definitively do harm to the streams, lakes, rivers, and wetlands in the midcoast region of Maine. As incredibly valuable economic drivers in this state, our water resources deserve protection and enhancement. This bill does the opposite and would very likely be detrimental to tourism and property tax revenue throughout the state. Therefore, we urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on all provisions of LD 1040.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Garrison".

Garrison Beck
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