

DOCUMENTS FOR THE MEETING

Friends of Casco Bay – Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday – May 18, 2021

VIRTUAL – Board Meeting Agenda

We will send a ZOOM invitation with the Board package

PLEASE NOTE START TIME



5:15 – 5:30 Open for early arrival and greetings

5:30 – 5:40 Welcome – *President Sandy Marsters*

- **Board Consent Package (minutes and financials): *Action Item***

5:40 – 5:55 Community Engagement Committee – *Committee Chair Seb Milardo*

5:55 – 6:30 Volunteers in FY21 – *Community Engagement Coordinator Sarah Lyman*

6:30 – 6:45 Executive Director Update – *Executive Director Cathy Ramsdell*

6:45 – 7:00 Questions, clarifications, concerns, comments

7:00 Adjourn

CONSENT AGENDA DOCUMENTS TO REVIEW:

- Minutes – Board meeting April 20, 2021
- Minutes – Community Engagement Committee May 3, 2021
- Financials April 2021

MEETING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

- Agenda for this meeting
- Volunteer Metrics for FY21
- Letters of support or testimony:
 - Testimony letter in support of Land for Maine's Future, 4/26/2021
 - Testimony letter in support of Sea Level Rise Infrastructure Bond, 4/26/2021
 - Testimony letter in support of Tribal Sovereignty bill, 5/3/2021

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon	June 7	Community Engagement Committee Meeting, online 5 p.m.
Wed	June 16	Casco Bay Matters online event to Celebrate the Launch of CMS's and Share Comparative Data, 5:30 pm
Mon	June 28	Water Reporter Training event, noon, online
Tues	June 29	Water Reporter Training event, 5:30 p.m., online
Mon	July 12	Community Engagement Committee Meeting, online 5 p.m.
Mon	Aug 2	Community Engagement Committee Meeting, online 5 p.m.

Friends of Casco Bay Volunteer Metrics

Volunteers	FY21	FY20	FY19
Volunteers	269	547	236
Total hours volunteered	818	2004	1033

Water Reporter Metrics	FY21	FY20	FY19
<u>Cumulative metrics</u>			
Number of Water Reporters in the Friends of Casco Bay group	255	205	108
Number of posts in the watershed since launching in July 2018	1,739	991	367
<u>Year by year metrics</u>			
Number of Water Reporters who posted during the fiscal year	57	85	54
Number of posts per Water Reporter who posted	13.1	7.3	6.8
Number of posts in the watershed	748	624	367
Number of posts <i>shared with our group</i> during the fiscal year	556	* 586	* 367
% number of posts shared with our group	74%	* 94%	* 100%
Number of algal blooms noted or tracked this year	22	18	6

*The Commons, creators of the Water Reporter app, manually shared most of the FY19/20 posts with us. Moving forward, only volunteers can share their posts with us.

Coastal Cleanup Metrics	FY21	FY20	FY19
Number of cleanups	0	22	8
Number of participants	0	285	89
Estimated pounds of trash collected	0	937	553

Storm Drain Stenciling Metrics	FY21	FY20	FY19
Number of events	0	4	3
Number of participants	0	46	33
Storm drains stenciled	0	322	277



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Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 26, 2021

RE: LD 49, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise

Dear Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Friends of Casco Bay submits this testimony in support of LD 49, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise. This bond would provide \$50,000,000 in funding to improve waterfront and coastal infrastructure in municipalities to address sea level rise.

Friends of Casco Bay is a marine stewardship organization formed in 1989 to improve and protect the environmental health of Casco Bay. We monitor the health of Casco Bay, and use that data to inform our advocacy and engage our communities in efforts to protect the health of our coastal waters.

Our data confirm that the biggest threat to the health of Casco Bay is climate change. We serve on the Coastal and Marine Working Group (CMWG) of the Maine Climate Council (MCC), and whole-heartedly agree with the MCC that we must act quickly to curb the causes and be resilient to the consequences of climate change. The “Maine Won’t Wait” climate action plan is based upon sound science and calls for swift action. The plan recognizes that municipalities will need technical and financial assistance to implement resilience solutions. The funding must occur now so that timely changes can be made to address current consequences and prepare for the future.

Sea level rise (SLR) poses one of the biggest and most visible threats to our coastal communities.¹ In our recent program, “Sea Level, Storms and Surges, Oh My,” attended by about 350 participants, Mainers identified SLR and its impacts on both built and natural environments as their top coastal concern. (See footnote 1 below.)

Based on projections calculated by the Science and Technical Subcommittee and adopted by the MCC, we must commit to manage for 3.9 feet of SLR and be prepared to manage for 8.8 feet of SLR by 2100. We likely will have 1.6 feet of SLR by 2050.

¹ For an overview of the science behind SLR and the actions Maine must take, please watch <https://www.cascobay.org/rising-seas-and-storm-surges-in-casco-bay/>.

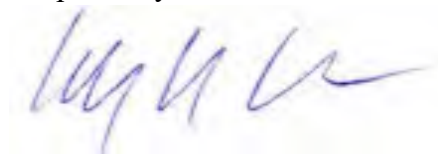
If we couple those levels of SLR with the Highest Astronomical Tide,² the MCC projects that:

- With 1.6 feet of SLR, six of the ten waste water treatment facilities currently within the 100 foot floodplain will be permanently inundated.
- The nuisance flooding that already impacts coastal Maine will increase 10-15 fold with just 1 foot of SLR, increasing from average flooding of about 14 hours per year to about 142 hours per year.
- With 1.6 feet of SLR, 26 miles of coastal public roads, 6 miles of rail, and 977-1022 crossings and culverts (ERG Summary, p. 11) will be inundated. With 3.9 feet of SLR, 116 miles of roads, 23 miles of rail, and 1128-1180 crossings and culverts will be flooded (ERG Summary p. 11).
- With 1.6 feet of SLR, 61% of undeveloped dunes and 85% of developed dunes will be inundated. By 2100, 3.9 feet of SLR will inundate 93% of undeveloped dunes and 96% of developed dunes. (STS Report, Table 17, p.99).
- In addition, 1.6 feet of SLR will inundate 43% of protective dry beach, and with 3.9 feet of SLR, we will lose 74% of dry beach. (STS Report, Table 15, p. 98).

The economic consequences of these changes will be staggering for municipalities. Economists hired by the MCC estimate that by 2050, Maine's coastline will sustain damages of up to \$17.5 billion. The costs to redesign or move wastewater treatment facilities, raise or relocate roads, move infrastructure in dunes, and replace and resize crossings and culverts will be staggering. Yet, we continue to be a state that gravitates to coastal living and coastal livelihoods. Providing \$50,000,000 now will provide municipalities with a chance to leverage additional funds so they can address current infrastructure failures related to SLR and prepare for a more resilient future.

Friends of Casco Bay respectfully and ardently requests that this Committee support LD 49, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



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² As referenced on the web page for the Maine Geological Survey, the Highest Astronomical Tide is the elevation of the highest predicted astronomical tide expected to occur at a specific tide station over the National Tidal Datum Epoch, or NTDE. The NTDE is a specific 19-year period adopted by the National Ocean Service as the official time segment over which tide observations are taken and reduced to obtain mean values (e.g., mean lower low water, etc.) for tidal datums. It is necessary for standardization because of periodic and apparent secular trends in sea level. The present NTDE is 1983 through 2001 and is actively considered for revision every 20-25 years.



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Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 26, 2021

RE: LD 983, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote Land Conservation, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation and LD 687, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote the Conservation of Land, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation

Dear Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Friends of Casco Bay submits this testimony in support of LD 983, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote Land Conservation, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation, and LD 687, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote the Conservation of Land, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation. We support both bills but believe the funding and longer time frame set forth in LD 983 will best help Maine become resilient to climate change through conservation and will best achieve environmental justice by helping to ensure access to our natural resources.

Friends of Casco Bay is a marine stewardship organization formed in 1989 to improve and protect the environmental health of Casco Bay. We monitor the health of Casco Bay, and use that data to inform our advocacy and engage our communities in efforts to protect the health of our coastal waters.

Our data show that Casco Bay is changing because of climate change. As a member of the Coastal and Marine Working Group of the Maine Climate Council, we strongly advocated for measures to conserve valuable marshes and other coastal habitats necessary to sustain marine life, provide carbon storage to reduce our carbon footprint, and serve as buffers from storm surges and sea level rise. We also supported recommendations to protect working waterfront and promote the survival of our rich maritime economy.

Land for Maine's Future (LMF) funds already have conserved vital lands along the shores of Casco Bay and ensured public and commercial access to our waters. For example, LMF funds financed the purchase of .77 acres at Holbrook's Wharf in Harpswell. We have just deployed a continuous monitoring station off that wharf that will collect data every hour of every day, for years to come. These data allow us to track changes in water chemistry, including, but not limited to, temperature, salinity, pH, and the amount of calcium carbonate available for shell formation. There are few public access places in eastern Casco Bay where we can monitor water quality, so this site is critically important to our work. Moreover, the wharf is a vital and busy community hub, where we often see lobstermen, tourists and locals.

LMF funds also purchased public land at Mere Point in Brunswick, which allows deep water boat launching and recreational use. We monitor water quality seasonally at Mere Point. We frequently see boats launched for fishing or oyster farming, wormers digging on the flats, and families enjoying picnics and recreational boating. Again we rely upon this public access to do our own work, which in turn protects the health of the Bay for all users.

LMF must be funded at sufficient levels for the long term. As the "Maine Won't Wait" climate action plan acknowledges, we must conserve and rely upon our natural resources to help us be resilient to climate change. We must preserve access to those resources to protect our way of life, which relies upon nature for sustenance and solace.

Friends of Casco Bay respectfully requests that this Committee support strong and long term funding for LMF.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



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Friends of Casco Bay
Casco BAYKEEPER

May 4, 2021

Senator Anne Carney
Representative Thom Harnett
Committee on Judiciary
% Legislative Information Office
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Re: Friends of Casco Bay Testimony in Support of LD 1626: An Act
Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine
Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and Esteemed Members of the
Committee on Judiciary,

Please accept this letter as Friends of Casco Bay's testimony in support of LD
1626: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes
to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act.

Friends of Casco Bay is a marine stewardship organization formed in 1989 to
improve and protect the environmental health of Casco Bay. We monitor the Bay,
and use that data to inform our advocacy and engage our communities in efforts to
improve and protect the health of our coastal waters for the use of all people.

We acknowledge that long before we cared for Casco Bay, indigenous peoples
populated its shores and lived in relationship with the Bay. Prior to European
colonization, robust indigenous communities lived by and depended on the Bay for
sustenance. Many of Casco Bay's coves and islands bear names that reflect the
region's rich indigenous history.

For example, the Abenaki called the Bay Aucocisco, or "the place of the herons."
They named Chebeague, which means "isle of many springs," for its many
freshwater springs. Maquoit Bay, which means "bear place" or "bear bay," was
named for the bears drawn to its shores by former runs of Atlantic Salmon. On
some of Casco Bay's islands, you can find spear and harpoon points, fish bones,
and shell heaps indicative of indigenous peoples' late winter, spring, and summer
camps.

Since the arrival of European settlers and the founding of the State of Maine, much
has changed for the indigenous people who live here. Today, Wabanaki tribes have
lost 98 percent of their people, access to most land and waters, and their ability to
sustain themselves in traditional ways. For the past 40 years the tribes' inherent
sovereignty has been restricted by the State of Maine, more than in any other state
and despite the federal government's recognition of indigenous sovereignty.

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As recently as the 1970s, Wabanaki tribes held legal claim to more than one million acres of land “owned” by private landowners and the State of Maine. To avoid hostilities and legal disputes, the federal government brokered a settlement between the State of Maine and the tribes – the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980. This act was intended to provide funding and facilitate a process for the tribes to replace the land unjustly taken from them. Due to many factors, the tribes have not been able to purchase the amount of the land that was intended by the Act. Moreover, the State of Maine and tribes have different interpretations of the Act, which has led to costly, legal conflicts.

Last year, a bipartisan task force recommended 22 changes to Maine law to recognize the sovereignty of Wabanaki tribes. There are many reasons Maine should recognize the sovereignty of the Wabanaki people, but principally because this right is inherent and its recognition represents one step toward healing the centuries of harm European settlers and the State of Maine have inflicted upon the tribes.

Included in the 22 recommendations are the tribes’ rights to regulate hunting, fishing, natural resources, and land use on tribal lands, as allowed by federal law. As environmental degradation in Maine persists and the current impacts and looming threats of climate change continue to mount, restoring the Wabanaki tribes’ ability to manage tribal lands, water, and natural resources is not only just, but also will help improve and protect the environmental health of Maine for generations to come.

Out of respect for tribal sovereignty, the deep connection of the Wabanaki tribes to the natural world, and recognition of the shameful history of colonization that continues to impact us all, Friends of Casco Bay respectfully requests that this committee recommend that LD 1626 OUGHT TO PASS.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



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