

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 29, 1921

TO Neil L. Violette, Deputy Forest Commissioner  
Re: Islands in Great Ponds

We have your letter of March 28th, referring to certain conveyances of the east and west parts of the town of Woodstock by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in the years 1800 and 1807, and asking our opinion as to whether the islands in the great ponds within the described territory are to be construed as included in the grant.

If the description in the deeds is sufficient to include them, we do not think they would be excluded simply by reason of the fact that they were located in great ponds. The Supreme Court of this State has recently held that the State holds the title to the bed of great ponds in trust for the people and cannot alienate it, but neither the language nor the reasoning of the opinion is extended to islands. This conclusion is strengthened by the long continued practical construction of public rights in such islands, private title to the same having been recognized for a long period of time.

Fred F. Lawrence  
Deputy Attorney General.