

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

DIRECTOR llp
MAINTENANCE _____
NATURALIST _____
FORESTER _____
BUSINESS MGR. _____
NORTH DISTRICT _____
SOUTH DISTRICT _____
FILE _____

August 18, 1971

Lawrence Stuart, Director
Park and Recreation Commission
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Larry:

Because I am unable to attend your meeting on August 19, covering the proposed Department of Natural Resources, I am writing this letter.

I would like to go on record as Chairman of the Baxter Park Authority proposing that Baxter Park should maintain its separate identity.

There are several good reasons for this, but for the sake of brevity, I would like to emphasize two:

1. The late Governor Baxter on more than one occasion expressed his desire that the Park be treated and managed separately from the State Park system. It was his intent and, clearly, his wish that his unique gift be uniquely administered.
2. The gift of the land to the State, the restrictions, and the multi-million dollar trust fund created are all trusts in the highest fiduciary sense. None of the terms of the gift, nor of the uses of the money are subject to change by the State. The Park is wholly self-supporting and requires nothing now from General Fund revenues.

I would be happy to make a formal presentation if you desire, expanding this letter and the reasons for my position if you so desire.

Since the reorganization of State Government is designed to bring about greater efficiency and economy, the exclusion of Baxter Park from a Department of Natural Resources will not affect the aim

August 18, 1971

of reorganization. The Park is uniquely different in the State, it is unique in the country and may well be unique in the whole world. It should be so treated.

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

James S. Erwin
Attorney General

JSE:n

cc: Mr. Wilkins
Mr. Bucknam