

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 54.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE relating to the United States Arsenal at  
Augusta, Maine.

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WHEREAS, The State of Maine is a frontier state with  
2 a long line of boundary bordering on the territory of  
3 a foreign government, with extensive sea coast, un-  
4 equalled by the coast of any other of the United  
5 States, and from her salient and isolated position is  
6 exposed, in case of war, to inroads by land and attacks  
7 by water; and whereas, the arsenal at Augusta was  
8 established as a depot for the safe keeping of arms and  
9 munitions of war, and for the fabrication of military  
10 supplies for the defence of this distant part of the  
11 country, which is so exposed and is so liable in case of  
12 war to become the seat of war; and whereas, the  
13 nearest United States Arsenal is at Watertown, Mass.,  
14 two hundred miles from the central part of this state,  
15 and the water communication between it and the state

16 is liable to be interrupted by an enemy, and was, dur-  
17 ing the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, cut off,  
18 and as our connection by railroad is chiefly along the  
19 margins of navigable rivers and near the sea-coast ;  
20 and whereas, during the late war, a large quantity of  
21 arms and ordnances deposited at said arsenal, and  
22 large amount of military supplies prepared at the same,  
23 were sent forward, expeditiously, to the seat of war,  
24 as the same were needed, rendering important service  
25 at a particular juncture in our national affairs ; and  
26 whereas the buildings and land connected with and  
27 constituting the arsenal, will be of little value for any  
28 other purpose than an arsenal, and the same, at a  
29 small expense, can be converted into an arsenal of con-  
30 struction, with steam or water for a motive power ;  
31 and whereas the secretary of war, in his last report,  
32 has recommended the sale of said arsenal grounds  
33 and buildings, with others of minor importance, and  
34 a bill has been introduced into the United States Sen-  
35 ate, having for its object the abandonment of said  
36 arsenal, and directing the sale of the same, therefore :

*Resolved,* That, in the opinion of this legislature, a  
2 proper regard for the military defence of this state,  
3 and of this part of the United States, requires the con-  
4 tinued maintenance of the said arsenal at Augusta.

*Resolved,* That, our senators and representatives in  
2 congress, be requested to use their influence to prevent  
3 the abandonment and sale of said arsenal by congress,  
4 and that they present to congress the advantages of  
5 changing the same to an arsenal of construction.

*Resolved,* That, the secretary of state forward a copy  
2 of these resolutions to each of our senators and repre-  
3 sentatives in congress.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 14, 1874. }

Presented by Mr. NORTH, and on his motion referred to the  
Committee on Federal Relations, and ordered printed.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*