

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Ninety-seventh Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE
1955

State Papers Relating
to
Gifts of Ex-Governor Baxter

to
The State of Maine

(from May 1, 1953 to May 6, 1955)

COMMUNICATION
STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA

January 11, 1955

The Honorable President
The Honorable Speaker of the House
Ninety-seventh Legislature

Gentlemen:

I consider it a privilege to transmit herewith a letter from the Honorable Percival P. Baxter of Portland in which he offers an additional 2000 acres of land in the Baxter State Park area for public purposes. He also requests that the legislature ratify the January 20, 1954 acceptance by the Governor and the Executive Council of 14,005 acres of land in Township 6, Range 9.

In recognition of the legitimate interests of citizens in the surrounding areas who operate stores and camps, Mr. Baxter thoughtfully imposes no hunting restrictions in connection with his most recent gift, and he proposes removal of such restrictions in connection with his gift of January 20, 1954.

In another generous concession, Mr. Baxter proposes legislation under which the State's powers relating to the care and management of the Park are broadened and made more flexible.

I submit Mr. Baxter's generous offer and these several pieces of legislation to your serious consideration as being in the public interest.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) EDMUND S. MUSKIE,

Governor

(S. P. 26)

IN SENATE CHAMBER
Read and placed on file
January 12, 1955
Sent down for concurrence

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Read and placed on file
January 12, 1955
In concurrence

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

COMMUNICATION

Portland, Maine
January 11, 1955.

To the Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Governor
and the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives
of the 97th Legislature of the State of Maine.

In this communication I submit for your consideration certain matters relating to Baxter State Park, an area which now comprises 166,676 acres of wild forest

land forever to be held by the State of Maine IN TRUST for the PEOPLE OF MAINE. These Acts are four in number.

The FIRST Act ratifies and confirms the former Acceptance on January 20, 1954 by the Governor and Executive Council of my gifts of three parcels of wild land in the Katahdin area which were acquired by me when the Legislature was not in Session. As I was about to journey to foreign lands I deemed it wise to place this area in the safe ownership of the State in case I should not return. Moreover all my gifts to the State over the years have been accepted by the several Legislatures and so have been published in the Laws of Maine. I wish these gifts to conform to that plan.

The SECOND Act is a new gift of two thousand (2000) acres in township six (6) range nine (9) Trout Brook township so called. This completes the gift of the entire township except about 3402 acres and the 1/6th of the Public Lot both of which I hope to acquire from the Great Northern Paper Company so that later I can donate it to the State. In this gift of two thousand (2000) acres hunting is not forbidden.

The THIRD Act is an Act interpreting certain provisions relating to the care and management of this State Park. In consultation with our Forest and Game officials and with the Attorney General's Department it seems desirable to provide for an understanding as to what is required under the Trust Deeds. Under the Act now submitted to you the powers of the State management are broadened and made more flexible in order that the Trusts will not be violated in the years to come. As all my Trusts have been made for perpetuity great care has to be taken to make them understandable and enforceable.

The FOURTH Act relates to a distinct concession on my part in regard to the "No Hunting" or "Sanctuary" provisions in the Deed of Gift of the fourteen thousand five (14005) acres and of the five-sixths (5/6ths) of the Public Lot north of Trout Brook in township six (6) range nine (9). Under the original Deed to this area which was accepted by the Governor and Executive Council on January 20, 1954 hunting was forever prohibited. However, when I learned that the closing of this area might be detrimental to the citizens in Patten and surrounding territory who operate stores and camps I was pleased to yield to their appeals. This Act accomplishes that purpose and the people in that area are well satisfied. The "No hunting" clause is removed by this Act.

In 1917 I first proposed that the State make a beginning in creating a Park at Katahdin. From that date until now I have worked diligently and patiently upon this project and have seen it grow from small beginnings to its present ample proportions. In the years to come when the Forests of our State have been cut off and disappeared, when civilization has encroached upon the land we now refer to as "Wild Land", this Park will give the people of succeeding generations a living example of what the State of Maine was "in the good old days" before the song of the woodsman's axe and the whine of the power saw was heard in the land. I am confident that the people of Maine as time passes will appreciate this Park and that the State never will break these Trusts. I know the conscience and the Soul of Maine. The word of this State as given in Acts passed by its Legislatures and signed by its Governors is as sacred a pledge and trust as Man can make.

I request you to enact into Law these four documents if you deem it in the public interest so to do.

S. P. 27

Respectfully

(Signed) PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER

IN SENATE CHAMBER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Read and placed on file

Read and placed on file

January 12, 1955

January 12, 1955

Sent down for concurrence

In concurrence

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

ORDER

January 11, 1955

ORDERED, the House concurring, in order that the records of the Gifts by Percival Proctor Baxter to the State of Maine as Trustee in Trust of seventy-six and eight-tenths (76.8) acres in township six (6) range eight (8) Penobscot County, fourteen thousand five (14,005) acres one hundred thirty-six (136) acres five-sixths (5/6ths) of the Public Lot and two thousand (2000) acres all in township six (6) range nine (9) Piscataquis County, and eight thousand (8000) acres in township three (3) range nine (9) in Piscataquis County. TOGETHER with an Act amending certain restrictions in said above mentioned Deed of Gift of fourteen thousand five (14,005) acres and five-sixths (5/6ths) of the Public Lot and also TOGETHER with an Act interpreting the Trust conditions relating to the phrases "natural wild state" and "sanctuary for wild beasts and birds" as used in the several deeds of Baxter State Park be complete and in enduring form, the Communication dated January 11, 1955, addressed by said Baxter to Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Governor, and to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the 97th Legislature, together with the Message of Governor Edmund S. Muskie transmitting the said documents to the said Legislature be printed in the Laws of Maine for 1955.

(S. P. 24)

Butler, Franklin

IN SENATE CHAMBER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 12, 1955

Read and passed

Read and passed

January 18, 1955

Sent down for concurrence

In concurrence

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

COMMUNICATION

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

AUGUSTA

March 23, 1955

The Honorable President
The Honorable Speaker of the House
Ninety-seventh Legislature

Gentlemen:

I consider it a privilege to transmit, herewith, a letter from the Honorable Percival P. Baxter of Portland in which he offers an additional 3,569 acres of land in the Baxter State Park for public purposes.

Mr. Baxter has, again, thoughtfully imposed no hunting restrictions within this latest gift.

I am especially happy that Mr. Baxter has pointed out that this new grant will be available for scientific forestry management experiments. Mr. Baxter believes, as I do, that our historic forest wealth can best be conserved by thorough study of intelligent cutting practices and reforestation.

I submit Mr. Baxter's generous offer and the accompanying legislation to your serious consideration as being in the public interest.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) EDMUND S. MUSKIE,
Governor

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Read and placed on file
March 23, 1955
In concurrence

IN SENATE CHAMBER
Read and placed on file
March 23, 1955
Sent down for concurrence

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

S. P. 504

COMMUNICATION

March seventeenth
1955

To the Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Governor
and the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives
of the 97th Legislature of the State of Maine.

Since my communication of January 11th last in which I offered to donate to the State certain forest lands in Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties, which you graciously accepted, I have acquired additional acreage and now offer you 3,569 acres in township six (6) range nine (9) Piscataquis County. This gift if you accept it will complete the State's ownership of this township and Baxter State Park will contain slightly in excess of seven (7) entire wild land townships or 168,350 acres. This has been accomplished over the period of thirty years since I left the Governorship.

I now wish to testify to the fine public spirit of the corporations, trustees and other land owners centered in Bangor who have entered into the spirit of my project and by the sale of their lands have made possible this Park.

In offering this gift I provide that the land forever shall be held by the State IN TRUST for State Forest, Public Park and Public Recreational Purposes and shall be named BAXTER STATE PARK. I do not, however, provide that hunting be prohibited as in several of my former gifts, because I find that many citizens who live in northern Maine depend for their livelihood largely upon the business that hunters bring to them. This 3,569 area will be available both for recreation and for scientific forestry management and can be made to produce a continuing crop of timber to be harvested and sold as are potatoes or any other product of the soil.

It long has been my purpose to create in our forests a large area wherein the State may practice the most modern methods of forest control, reforestation and production under the management of our able Forest Commissioner Mr. Nutting and his associates. This new 3,569 acres is an excellent location for this purpose.

In my travels in foreign lands I have seen beautiful great forests that for centuries have been producing a crop of wood without depletion. In Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, Chile, Russia and elsewhere what has been done by scientifically controlled forestry can be done in Maine. I now make it possible for the State to try a major experiment here at home, an experiment that can mean much for our future timber supply, which all admit is the chief natural resource of our State.

In the lobby between the Senate Chamber and the Hall of Representatives I have placed a colored map showing Baxter Park in three colors. These three colored areas comprise the entire Park. Fishing is allowed throughout the Park but in the red portion hunting is prohibited. In the blue and orange areas hunting is allowed. The new orange area of 3,569 acres is where I suggest that scientific forestry be practiced by the State.

When you inspect this map it will be difficult for you to visualize how this has been accomplished, how my numerous purchases have been brought together into one solid area. I myself can hardly realize it. A map showing the different acquisitions both small and large over the years would remind you of your grandmother's patchwork quilt, which finally in some mysterious way came out of the confusion into one large piece.

The Park now is complete except for one additional township which I would like to acquire in order to square the lines. It is doubtful if this can be purchased.

With your acceptance of this gift of 3,569 acres I feel that my life work in creating this Park has been brought to a happy conclusion.

The creation of this Park has been an enlightening experience. The generous approval given my efforts by the present Governor and by the Ninety-seventh Legislature as well as by former Governors and Legislatures has touched my heart.

To close I give you a few words of my own that express the spirit of this Park project.

MAN IS BORN TO DIE
HIS WORKS ARE SHORT-LIVED
BUILDINGS CRUMBLE, MONUMENTS DECAY, WEALTH VANISHES
BUT KATAHDIN IN ALL ITS GLORY
FOREVER SHALL REMAIN THE MOUNTAIN OF THE
PEOPLE OF MAINE.

Respectfully

(Signed) PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER

ORDER

March 22, 1955

ORDERED, the House concurring, in order that the records of the Gifts by Percival Proctor Baxter to the State of Maine as Trustee in Trust of three thousand five hundred sixty-nine (3,569) acres in township six (6) range nine (9) Piscataquis County, State of Maine, be complete and in enduring form the Communication dated March 17th, 1955, addressed by said Baxter to Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Governor, and to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Ninety-seventh Legislature, together with the Message of Governor Edmund S. Muskie transmitting the said Communication to this Legislature be printed in the Laws of Maine for 1955.

(S. P. 495)
Butler, Franklin

IN SENATE CHAMBER March 22, 1955 Read and passed Sent down for concurrence.	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Read and passed March 22, 1955 In concurrence
CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary	HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

COMMUNICATION

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA

May 6, 1955

The Honorable President
The Honorable Speaker of the House
Ninety-seventh Legislature

Gentlemen :

I consider it a privilege to transmit, herewith, a letter from the Honorable Percival P. Baxter of Portland in which he offers an additional 25,025 acres of land in the Baxter State Park for public purposes.

Mr. Baxter, has, again, thoughtfully imposed no hunting restrictions within this latest gift.

Mr. Baxter, continuing the far-sighted policy proposed in his March 23rd gift, is desirous that this new grant be devoted to scientific forestry research. He points out that action today in conserving our forests will be all important to the generations who follow us. I heartily support this wise course.

I submit Mr. Baxter's generous offer and the accompanying legislation to your serious consideration as being in the public interest.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) EDMUND S. MUSKIE

(S. P. 576)

IN SENATE CHAMBER Read and placed on file May 6, 1955 Sent down for concurrence	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Read and placed on file May 6, 1955 In concurrence
CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary	HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

COMMUNICATION

Portland, Maine
 May second
 1955

To the
 Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Governor
 and the
 Honorable Senate and House of Representatives
 of the 97th Legislature of the State of Maine

It is with some hesitation that I come to you a third time during the present Legislative Session to offer an additional gift of forest land to be added to Baxter State Park. Notwithstanding this I ask your patience and your friendly consideration.

A few weeks ago you graciously accepted my gifts of fifteen thousand twenty (15,020) acres and of three thousand five hundred sixty-nine (3,569) acres in township six (6) range nine (9) Piscataquis County. Little did I realize that in a few short weeks another township, township six (6) range ten (10), would become my property. This is now offered to you. It contains twenty-five thousand twenty-five (25,025) acres and its acquisition by the State will increase the Park to one hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred fifty-four (193,254) acres, or three hundred and two (302) square miles the same being eight (8) entire townships and a portion of a ninth township on the shore of Matagamon Lake.

The terms of this gift are identical with those of the three thousand five hundred sixty-nine (3,569) acre gift; Public Park, Public Forest, Public Recreational and Scientific Forestry Purposes and Reforestation. I want this township to become a show place for those interested in forestry, a place where a continuing timber crop can be cultivated, harvested and sold; where reforestation and scientific cutting will be employed; an example and an inspiration to others. What is done in our forests today will help or harm the generations who follow us.

This township six (6) range ten (10) is what is termed by woodsmen "good growing land", an area with an abundance of wild life, especially moose. Fishing and hunting will be allowed under the general Fish and Game Laws of the State.

As the curtain falls on this Legislative Session and its books are being closed I leave with you a message which I am sure expresses your sentiments as well as mine.

WE ALL LOVE THE STATE OF MAINE
 HER FAIR LAND AND FINE PEOPLE
 HER MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS
 WITH THE BEASTS AND BIRDS THEREIN
 HER RUGGED SHORES AND CLEAR WATERS.
 GOD HAS CONFERRED UPON US THESE BLESSINGS
 FOR WHICH WE EVER SHOULD BE THANKFUL.

Respectfully

s/ PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER

IN SENATE CHAMBER
 Read and placed on file
 May 6, 1955

Sent down for concurrence

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 Read and placed on file
 May 6, 1955

In concurrence

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

ORDER

May 6, 1955

ORDERED, the House concurring, in order that the records of the Gift by Percival Proctor Baxter to the State of Maine as Trustee in Trust of twenty-five thousand twenty-five (25,025) acres in township six (6) range ten (10) Piscataquis County W.E.L.S. State of Maine, be complete and in enduring form, the Communication dated May second, 1955, addressed by said Baxter to Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Governor, and to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Ninety-seventh Legislature, together with the Message of Governor Edmund S. Muskie transmitting the said Communication to this Legislature be printed in the Laws of Maine for 1955.

(S. P. 577)

IN SENATE CHAMBER

May 6, 1955

Read and passed

Sent down for concurrence

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Read and passed

May 6, 1955

In concurrence

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk