

STATE OF MAINE

—
**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN**
—

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF
SOILS TO MAINE'S FUTURE PROSPERITY**

WHEREAS, soils are a natural resource that supports major economic sectors of our State, including agriculture, forestry and recreation; and

WHEREAS, healthy soils filter, store and release fresh water, and soil management is closely linked to the water quality in our groundwater, lakes, ponds, rivers and oceans; and

WHEREAS, wetland soils mitigate the effects of major storms and protect our coastal and riverine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, soil is a living ecosystem that provides keys to scientific advances that directly affect human health, such as the development of new medicines, including recent advances in antibiotic technology developed from Maine soil; and

WHEREAS, good soil management can prevent damaging erosion, loss of organic matter, soil compaction and degradation of soil structure, thereby sustaining the essential ecosystem functions performed by soils; and

WHEREAS, soils are renewable only on the scale of geologic time yet support the renewable resources upon which Maine's future depends; and

WHEREAS, the 119th Maine Legislature designated the Chesuncook soil series as our official state soil to promote public awareness and education regarding soil resources; and

WHEREAS, 2015 has been declared by the United Nations General Assembly the International Year of Soils, celebrated by the Soil Science Society of America and many other organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity during the International Year of Soils to recognize the essential role of all of Maine's soils in supporting a thriving Maine economy and healthy environment and ensuring a sustainable and productive future for the people of Maine.