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PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Recently Posted CCC Rules and Notices.

Comment On: CCC_FRDOC_0001-0095
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

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Government Agency Type: State

Government Agency: Land for Maine's Future - State Planning Office

General Comment

I am joining in full with "COMMENTS OF THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES AND MAINE FARMLAND TRUST ON THE CORRECTED INTERIM FINAL RULE (IFR) FOR THE USDA-NRCS FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM. Docket Number NRCS-IFR-08013" submitted on or about this same date.

The Land for Maine's Future Program provides the principal source of state-level, public funding for farmland conservation in Maine. LMF funding is overwhelmingly the largest source of matching funds for FRPP projects in Maine. All LMF funded projects are subject to a rigorous due diligence process which includes title review and insurance, on-site environmental survey assessment for possible hazards, and full appraisal review to USPAP and (where federal funds are involved) UASFLA standards. LMF has funded easement acquisition for more than 20 years and retains its own legal staff for conservation easement drafting. The Model agricultural conservation easement used by Maine and previously approved by USDA was developed by LMF staff and attorneys in conjunction with Maine Department of Agriculture staff.