



Maine Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation

THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION®

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To Whom it May Concern,

The Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation wishes to express our support for the Viles Arboretum application for funding to the Forest of the Future project. This project will further our combined efforts to restore the American Chestnut tree to the forests of Maine. We are thrilled to see this project take shape and look forward to its successful implementation.

After several decades of working together on chestnut orchards and demonstration plantings with Viles Arboretum, we look forward to continued collaborative efforts to introduce the blight-resistant "Darling 58" transgenic trees developed by the SUNY-ESF's American Chestnut Research Lab. We have selected the Viles Arboretum to be the first location in Maine for a demonstration planting of this blight-tolerant American chestnut. We are also excited to participate in the mutual management of this demonstration planting and associated outreach and education programs on the grounds of Viles Arboretum with the Forest of the Future implementation team.

The American chestnut tree was once a vital part of our Maine forests and landscapes, and we believe that through initiatives like this, we can restore its important ecological and cultural contributions to our region. We appreciate the dedication and hard work of the Arboretum and are proud to support this effort.

Thank you for your commitment to this project and for your efforts to enhance the health and sustainability of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Mark McCollough, President, Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation