



Maine Professional Guides Association

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Testimony of Don Kleiner Executive Director Opposing LD 1561 An Act To Amend the Maine Land Use Planning Commission Laws and Enhance the Economic Vitality of Neighboring Communities

Good afternoon Senator Dill, Representative Hickman and distinguished members of the Committee Agriculture Conservation and Forestry. My name Don Kleiner, I live in Union and am the Executive Director of the Maine Professional Guides Association. Please forgive me but I am unable to attend this afternoon. I will be “on another line” as a fishing guide.

The association I represent is made up of roughly 1000 Registered Maine Guides each operating a small business. Most of them are located in the more rural parts of our state. It almost goes without saying that those businesses are extremely dependent on our natural resources. The land, water, fisheries and wildlife that make our state something special to clients from around the world. Put another way the quality of the landscape matters to us not only personally but as a fundamental asset of our businesses.

That is not the only aspect that is of concern to us though. Operating a small business is never easy and is made even more difficult by being remote. The rules governing our operations need to be administered with our local perspective carefully considered. For this reason the association (and me personally) participated in the LURC reform commission that developed the present structure of the LUPC and direction. I can assure you that it was given careful thought and after hours of meetings, comments, discussion and review was presented to and enacted by the legislature.

For the last several years the Commission has worked as we all would hope any local planning board would do. Encouraging development where appropriate and discouraging it where it does not make sense and in a careful deliberate manner. With an eye to the common good and local citizens which is its purpose.

Because we see the current LUPC as functioning well and providing the careful guidance that we think right we urge that the committee defeat LD 1561 and maintain what appears to us to be working. Keeping the membership local and responsive to the governed regions is critical to the success of small businesses like ours.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of our point of view.

An organization of professional guides dedicated to promoting a quality, ethical outdoor experience.