

May 25, 2023

Joint Standing Committee on State & Local Government  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Support of LD 1934, *Resolve, to Improve the Coordination and Delivery of Planning Grants and Technical Assistance to Communities in Maine*

Dear Sen. Nangle, Rep. Stover, and Committee members;

Please accept this letter as the testimony of the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) in support LD 1934, *Resolve, to Improve the Coordination and Delivery of Planning Grants and Technical Assistance to Communities in Maine*.

GPCOG serves 25 municipal members in Cumberland County, from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay, as well as Saco, Biddeford, Arundel, and Old Orchard Beach through the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS). We deliver transportation, land use, sustainability, and economic development services to our members and their communities, and we collaborate with many state agencies in our work.

LD 1934 directs the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to review opportunities for structural changes in the organization of State Government and to make recommendations that will result in the improved coordination and implementation of planning grants and technical assistance programs for communities in this State and regional planning and development organizations.

GPCOG supports LD 1934 because it offers an opportunity to improve the frequently fragmented and uncoordinated state approach to funding regional implementation of state and federal policies. With the passage of LD 1934 state agencies and regional organizations will work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regional-state partnerships that advance our shared goals of stronger municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of LD 1934, and please let me know if GPCOG can provide anything more to support your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Kristina Egan  
Executive Director  
Greater Portland Council of Governments