



TOWN OF BAR HARBOR

Planning and Code Enforcement

93 Cottage Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609-1400

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Senator Pierce
The Honorable Representative Gere
The Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing
Maine State Capitol & State House
2 State House Station
August, Maine 04333

Dear Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing:

My name is Michele Gagnon. I have been working in Eastern Maine in the field of land use planning for 30 years. I am the Planning Director for the Town of Bar Harbor and I also have the privilege to live in Bar Harbor. On behalf of the Town of Bar Harbor, please accept this testimony in strong support of LD 1967, *An Act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws*.

This Act is long overdue and opens the door to a better future for the State of Maine. This is necessary to allow Maine's 545 municipalities to:

- 1) Create contemporary, system- and value-based comprehensive plans that are creative and inspiring in their content;
- 2) Respond to the needs, values, and priorities of the community while safeguarding their sense of place, history and natural resources; and
- 3) Allow for the development of plans that can truly belong to the community and implement its values.

We, in Bar Harbor, are proud to be in the process of developing such a Comprehensive Plan — Bar Harbor 2035. A plan that is realistic because it represents who we are as a community. A plan that is inspiring because it embraces a future that is ours. Therefore, a plan that stands a much better chance of being implemented. Our plan is not a plan of yesteryear but one for the future, one that would be consistent with LD 1976.

I hope that you consider voting in favor of LD 1976.

Respectfully yours,

Michele Gagnon
Planning Director

c. Cornell Knight, Interim Town Manager

Michele Gagnon
Town of Bar Harbor
LD 1976

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