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Co-Chairs Teresa Pierce and Traci Gere

Joint Committee on Housing

c/o Legislative Information Office

100 State House Station

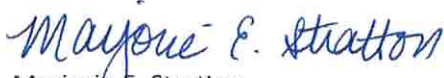
Augusta, maine 04333

Dear Senator Pierce and Representative Gere:

This letter is in support of **House Bill 602: An Act to Provide Regional Support to Deliver State and Federal Programs to Cities and Towns in the State**. In this period of housing need, development pressure, and transitioning communities in the midcoast, this bill provides important base funding for the Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG) to assist our community, and the region, in addressing housing land use issues. During the past year, MCOG has helped us with necessary and required amendments to our Land Use Ordinance. They facilitated our Planning Commission meetings and kept us on track to adopt the amendments in November 2023.

In addressing these challenges, MCOG's technical assistance and guidance on housing issues, land use and funding opportunities is critical. MCOG is a trusted partner in the work of our community and region and we will be better positioned to meet our planning and implementation needs.

Sincerely,

  
Marjorie E. Stratton

Town Manager, Town of Vinalhaven