



Maine Association of County Clerks, Administrator and Managers

LD 210, Biennial Budget, Maine Office of Community Affairs (Part D)

February 4, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and esteemed members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs: (Senator Curry, Representative Gere and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development).

My name is Tim Curtis, Somerset County Administrator and President of the Maine Association of County Clerks, Administrators and Managers. I am very much in favor of the initiative to streamline state services to municipalities and counties through the establishment of the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA).

I have served as both a Town Manager and County Administrator, it is essential to find resources quickly, whether it be grant information, help with code enforcement or questions about housing development. Maine's town offices and city halls will definitely benefit from the 'one stop shopping' approach.

Having served over a decade in a rural community (Madison, pop. 4,700), I experienced first hand the expectations placed on town staff. We are expected to have the answers to every question, solve the quarrelsome neighbor's property dispute, find money for new and existing programs and more. All without raising taxes!

Over a 6-year period in Madison, we shuffled through five Code Enforcement Officers. Some would retire, others would leave for better opportunities. In the many months between CEOs, I found myself taking the calls and looking for answers. While the Maine Fire Marshalls Office did their best to help, the ever-increasing need for Code Enforcement exceeds that department's capacity. MOCA will bring a renewed focus to meeting the needs of rural communities.

Beyond Code Enforcement, municipalities face added pressures of developing affordable workforce housing, upgrading infrastructure to adapt to changing weather events, and maintaining responsible land management practices. Many towns struggle to plan for the future because they are tasked with surviving the day or week. Resources like those provided by the Maine Office of Community Affairs will help Maine communities move forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tim Curtis
Somerset County Administrator
President, Maine Association of County Clerks, Administrators and Managers (MACCAM)
Board Member, Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG)

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Somerset County
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