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**Testimony in Support of LD 228  
("An Act to Allow Coastal Seawalls to Be Raised by up to 2 Feet in  
Order to Accommodate Predicted Sea Level Rise")**

**J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®**

**February 24, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Joint Select Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations. We represent the Maine Association of REALTORS®, a professional trade association established in 1936 with over 6,500 members statewide. REALTORS® protect private property rights, build Maine communities, and grow our state's economy. Our members represent buyers and sellers involved in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Our membership also includes industry affiliates, such as lenders, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is chartered by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® supports LD 228 because it provides an important opportunity for homeowners to protect their properties from rising sea levels and increasingly more common severe weather events and flooding. Specifically, it would allow the Department of Environmental Protection to approve a one-time increase (up to two feet) in the height of a seawall or similar structure that existed on or prior to January 1, 2025 or that is destroyed or damaged.

Maine property owners are especially vulnerable to these challenges because Maine has the most coastline of any state on the East Coast – 3,478 miles of tidal coastline. Many coastal properties are still recovering from the historic flooding events of 2023/2024. As stewards of private property rights, MAR supports continued choice for property owners when faced with shoreline stabilization. LD 228 is a good sense proposal that provides coastal property owners with a means to increase existing protections on their properties from future environmental impacts. For these reasons, we support LD 228 and respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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