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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) In Support of

LD 62, An Act to Support Municipal and County Actions on Dam Ownership

<u>-</u>	March 31, 2025	

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Amanda Campbell and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 62 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association.

Municipal officials support the language proposed in LD 62 providing that a dam owner wishing to sell must provide information to assist potential buyers in understanding the nuances of dam property. The increase in length of time for municipalities to schedule a public meeting, from 60 to 180 days, is essential to the dam ownership process, should the municipality intend to be the purchaser of property with a dam.

Municipalities that operate under a town meeting form of government typically hold only one annual town meeting and increasing this timeframe makes it more likely to fit this public meeting into an already established town meeting schedule. While it is possible for municipalities to call a special town meeting, those events come with added administrative burden and cost to the taxpayers.

This committee will hear several bills this session regarding dams and dam ownership and municipal officials appreciate the consideration of the municipal impacts should any changes be made to the statutes governing the ownership or removal of these structures.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective.