



AGC MAINE
THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Senator Talbot Ross, Chair
Representative Pluecker, Chair
Distinguished Members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Sent Electronically

Re: LD 870 "An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission "

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

We are submitting this letter opposing LD 870 "An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission." AGC Maine is a commercial construction trade association with members throughout the state. Our members build infrastructure within the Land Use Planning Commission's jurisdiction, and some are headquartered within that region.

This major overhaul would subvert the local process cherished by our Maine municipalities with local Planning Boards. LUPC similarly serves their communities, and several parts of this bill erode the connection between residents and local representative government. Removing the requirement that four additional Governor's appointments must reside, work, or be a former member of the commission's jurisdiction removes the relative information gained through local conversations and knowledge.

It's also troubling that the additional time to fill a vacant position would be reduced to 30 days. Municipalities with large populations can struggle to fill positions on local boards, but immediately moving to a Governor's appointment is not a viable solution and does not necessarily accelerate an appointment. In some cases, it may have the opposite effect, and prolong the appointment. In addition, the expansion to 13 members seems excessive; the Maine PUC operates with three members with statewide jurisdiction, and the Maine Board of Environmental Protection has seven members.

During the public hearing, you heard directly from County Commissioners who expressed their concerns, and we hope that local input was valuable to members deciding the path forward on this bill. A state government solution is unnecessary for the proper operation of LUPC, and we encourage the Committee to vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

Kelly Flagg, Executive Director

