



# City of Caribou

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April 13, 2025

Committee On State and Local Government  
132<sup>nd</sup> Maine Legislature  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1417, "An Act to Strengthen the Authority of Local Officials to Enforce Provisions Regarding Dangerous and Nuisance Properties that Constitute a Threat to Public Health and Safety"

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Penny Thompson, and I have worked for the City of Caribou for nearly fifteen years, starting in the tax assessment department in 2010, then when the code enforcement officer retired in 2014, I added land use, shoreland and MUBEC disciplines. In 2021, I was hired by the Caribou City Council to be the City Manager.

Like many communities, Caribou has several locations that fit the definition of nuisance or dangerous properties, parcels with issues relating to cleanliness and/or filth, and abandoned properties. These unfavorable conditions are due to a wide range of causes. The unifying circumstance is that Caribou municipal staff must identify issues, send notices of violations, follow up with property owners, and work with them towards voluntary compliance. Our municipal staff need every tool possible to correct these conditions and restore a sense of pride in our neighborhoods. The passage of LD 1417 will help communities like Caribou to add staff and tools to our enforcement toolbox. We would appreciate the opportunity to increase the avenues available to our community in the blight fight.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Penny Thompson, City Manager