



TOWN OF BAR HARBOR

Planning Department

93 Cottage Street
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609-1400

May 7, 2025

The Honorable Senator Curry
The Honorable Representative Gere
The Members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Maine State Capitol & State House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

My name is Cali Martinez, and I'm writing as the Housing and Community Planner for the Town of Bar Harbor. On behalf of the Town of Bar Harbor, please accept this testimony in **strong support of LD 1751**, *An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws*.

I am a board member of the Maine Association of Planners, so I know how much work and engagement went into this bill. LD 1751 includes the good portions of the previous bill, LD 1976, and additional changes to strengthen it. The Town's previous testimony for LD 1976 mimics the values mentioned in this testimony. However, we believe LD 1751 better aligns with Bar Harbor's values.

I truly believe this bill will benefit all Maine communities, from cities to rural towns. Due to a robust and intentional engagement process, Rep. Roberts' bill ensures small towns have flexibility to shape their futures in ways they want. This bill will also make the comprehensive planning process more accessible by reducing an overly intensive inventory and analysis process. Therefore, leaving more time and money to focus on actionable and implementable solutions, leading to more effective results. **I hope you consider voting in favor of LD 1751.**

Sincerely,

Cali Martinez, Housing and Community Planner
Town of Bar Harbor

CC: James Smith, Town Manager
Michele Gagnon, Town of Bar Harbor