

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Transportation

From: Ezra Sassaman, Advocacy Coordinator, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: May 8, 2025

Re: LD 1940: An Act to Revise the Growth Management Program Laws (SUPPORT)

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I live in Bar Harbor and represent Maine Climate Action Now! (MCAN), a coalition of sixteen grassroots nonprofit organizations from across Maine united by a desire to progress our state forward and engage in transformative action in response to the climate crisis.

The world is changing and presenting new challenges to Maine's communities, including extreme weather events, housing shortages, social isolation, decreasing life expectancy, decreasing access to maternity care, and other obstacles. These issues exist alongside a standing need for infrastructure upgrades – last year, Maine received an overall “C” grade for infrastructure, with bridges and transit receiving even lower “D” grades.¹

These combined struggles paint a clear picture: business as usual is not working for Maine. Instead of continuing down the same path, we must instead update the state's Growth Management Law and Comprehensive Plan requirements to better address the problems facing Mainers today.

We support changing these planning requirements to reduce bureaucratic hurdles for Maine communities and include as many individual community members as possible. These changes will better prepare each municipality to pinpoint and prepare to address the concerns that are central for its residents.

We support LD 1940 in its goals to promote growth in a smart way. By minimizing sprawl, we can address infrastructure, housing and transportation challenges without sacrificing natural resources and farmland.

For the above reasons, the Maine Climate Action Now! coalition urges you to vote “ought-to-pass” on LD 1940. Thank you.

¹ Maine Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. [“2024 Report Card for Maine's Infrastructure”](#). ASCE. Accessed May 7, 2025.