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Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of

LD 1751 – An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws

Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the committee Housing and Economic Development Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. 1751, *An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws*. I'm proud to co-sponsor this bill, which offers timely and thoughtful updates to Maine's framework for municipal planning and land use regulation.

As a representative of a diverse coastal and island district, I've seen how vital it is for communities to plan for growth in a way that balances development with infrastructure, environmental resilience, and the unique character of each town. This legislation strengthens that ability by:

- Updating and clarifying key terms and procedures in the Growth Management Program;
- Promoting regional collaboration through multimunicipal planning efforts;
- Supporting development of affordable and mixed-use housing;
- Enhancing consideration for pedestrian, bicycle, and public infrastructure;
- Requiring a comprehensive needs assessment that reflects both local priorities and state goals.

With housing pressures, rising sea levels, and infrastructure limitations affecting many of our towns, this bill equips municipalities with the tools and flexibility to plan for the future responsibly and effectively.

Thank you for your attention to this important bill. I respectfully urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on L.D. 1751. I am happy to answer any questions.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven