

# TOWN OF STONINGTON

32 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 9  
STONINGTON, MAINE 04681



## Select Board

Donna Brewer  
*Chair*  
Evelyn Duncan  
Travis Fifield  
Joseph Rackliff  
John Robbins

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Kathleen Billings  
*Town Manager*

Mary Roche  
*Town Clerk*

Bridget Brophy  
*Deputy Clerk*

Katherine O'Rourke  
*Deputy Clerk*

Raelene Pert  
*Shellfish Warden*

Brian Billings  
*Code Enforcement Officer*

Linda Nelson  
*Director of Economic and  
Community Development*

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development,

My name is Kathleen Billings, Town Manager of Stonington since 2007, and I oppose LD 1940.

Stonington's 2017 State and locally approved comprehensive plan has delivered real results: federal funds secured to convert a town building into workforce housing, a short-term-rental ordinance and housing reserve fund in place, grants won for sea-level-rise work on vulnerable roads, and a regional connectivity hub established, just to name a few. We are about to start our next update, ahead of the required 12-year update, using the current framework to shape the town's vision for the next five years.

LD 1940 would derail this effort. The bill's prescriptive place types are overly specific and beyond the specificity that should be required for a town like Stonington. The mapping requirements alone go beyond what data is easily available to us, significantly increasing our costs. Its "High Impact Corridor" language risks limiting state and federal funds to boundaries set in Augusta, further sidelining rural communities and disrupting the type of work Stonington is already accomplishing.

Our update is slated for State review after July 1, 2026; LD 1940 would force us to revise a near-complete draft to meet standards that do not yet exist.

By contrast, LD 1751 begins to address the real weaknesses of the current process streamlines inventories, directs agencies to supply reliable data, keeping the process workable for rural towns like Stonington. I urge the Committee to reject LD 1940 and advance LD 1751.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen M. Billings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "K" and "B".

Kathleen M. Billings, Town Manager

Town of Stonington