

Orion Breen
Pownal
LD 1940

Honorable members of the Joint Committee On Housing and Economic Development, I am writing you today in support of updating Maine's Growth Management Program laws. I've seen the need and challenges when it comes to housing both in more urban areas while serving as President of the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Community Chamber of Commerce and in more rural areas like Pownal where I currently live and serve on the Planning Board (though today I am writing on behalf of only myself). I commend L.D. 1940's sponsors for working to listen and incorporate a broad diversity of perspectives into the bill. Their efforts have gained support from both housing advocates, like the Maine Association of REALTORS and the Quality Housing Coalition, and environmental advocates, like the Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club and Maine Climate Action Now. I agree with the Maine Association of REALTORS on the need to thoughtfully balance private property rights while creatively addressing our state's housing needs and I agree with Maine Climate Action Now that with smart growth we can minimize sprawl and address infrastructure, housing and transportation challenges without sacrificing natural resources and farmland. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these important issues.