



**Testimony of the Maine Office of Community Affairs
Director Samantha Horn
May 12, 2025**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
Neither For Nor Against LD 1934, An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished Members of the joint standing committee on State and Local Government, my name is Samantha Horn, Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs. I am submitting written testimony to provide information regarding LD 1934, An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting.

The Maine Office of Community Affairs, or MOCA, was created in 2024 to foster communication and partnerships between the State and communities in this State. Our charge is to engage with municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities.

LD 1934 would require MOCA to create and distribute a model ordinance. It would also require all municipalities to adopt an ordinance addressing this topic. While we understand the environmental benefits of containing light to the minimum necessary for the purpose, we would like to alert the committee that there is likely to be a significant cost associated with providing the necessary technical assistance to the nearly 500 municipalities in Maine if they are required to adopt an ordinance. Ordinarily, MOCA provides technical assistance as municipalities undertake a planning process or have questions. That occasional assistance is within our capacity. When all municipalities must adopt an ordinance change on the same timeline, the outreach and technical assistance efforts that are necessary to implement that change are beyond what existing staff can handle.

The State currently has an outdated guidance document on lighting that could be updated and made available to municipalities. We are currently in the process of identifying our priorities for technical assistance materials updates, including for land use, housing, and other topics. If the committee feels that this topic is a priority for guidance updates, please let MOCA know so that we may appropriately prioritize it.

I am happy to provide any information you may need for work session.