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TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED IN FAVOR OF L.D. 1995
"AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MATERIALS HUB"**

DATE OF HEARING: JANUARY 8, 2026

**Honorable Senator Chip Curry, Honorable Representative Traci Gere, Distinguished Members of the
Housing and Economic Development Committee:**

The Maine Association of Planners (MAP) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) supports L.D. 1995 / S.P. 808 "An Act to Require the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Establish a Technical Assistance Materials Hub." The Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) is a valuable step forward for planning in Maine; it will increase statewide coordination, consistency, and sharing of planning resources and best practices.

The MAP LPC is made up of municipal planners, regional planners at state Regional Planning Organizations, and planning consultants working across the state on topics such as land use, housing, economic development, mapping, code revisions, and comprehensive planning. MAP LPC previously wrote testimony (February 2025) supporting MOCA and approval of their budget, with an emphasis on MOCA's ability to:

- improve coordination amongst numerous state programs;
- increase efficiency of state programs;
- offer clarity for Maine towns about who to call with questions; and
- provide effective structure and staffing of existing state programs.

The Technical Assistance Materials Hub directly enables MOCA to achieve these above goals by offering a centralized clearinghouse of planning information, data, analysis, and mapping tools. Having this information curated by one office and available in one location reduces confusion about which data sets to use, for example, and helps communities across the state make efficient and effective planning decisions. This Hub will greatly improve consistency, coordination, and communication of planning information and data for Maine communities and RPOs.

Sincerely,

The Maine Association of Planners Legislative Policy Committee

