



## TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### WRITTEN TESTIMONY 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 Regional Councils (MARC) is writing in favor of L.D. 1995 "An Act to Require the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Establish a Technical Assistance Materials Hub." This legislation will establish a centralized technical assistance hub within the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA), improving access to resources that support municipal and regional planning.

MARC represents Maine's Regional Planning Commissions and Councils, which are statutorily charged with building local government capacity, developing regional solutions to shared challenges, and serving as a link between municipalities and the State. Our member organizations are governed by and directly accountable to the municipalities they serve. MARC has previously supported the efforts of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to create and establish MOCA and the subsequent actions by the legislature to support MOCA's ability to centralize guidance, funding opportunities, and support for municipalities that increases the efficiency by which Regional Councils can serve their member communities.

A centralized technical assistance materials hub reduces duplication of effort across state, regional, and local partners by providing consistent and accessible guidance to all communities. It improves equitable access to technical assistance for municipalities with limited staff capacity and strengthens regional councils' ability to support their members using current, reliable tools. The hub also creates a clear pathway for regional councils to contribute locally developed resources and lessons learned, allowing effective approaches to be shared more widely. By consolidating information on emerging trends, proven strategies, and relevant funding opportunities, the hub supports more efficient coordination and better alignment of state resources with local and regional needs.

Sincerely,



Maine Association  
of Regional Councils

The Maine Association of Regional Councils

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