



**TESTIMONY TO THE APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF L.D. 2212**

**"An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027"**

**DATE OF HEARING: February 19, 2026**

Honorable Senator Margaret Rotundo, Honorable Representative Drew Gattine, Distinguished Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

The Maine Association of Regional Councils (MARC) is writing in favor of the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) sections of L.D. 2212, particularly the investments that strengthen code enforcement capacity across the State.

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 establishment of 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.

Across all of Maine's regions, code enforcement is consistently identified by municipalities as one of the most significant capacity challenges. Towns regularly report difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified code enforcement officers, keeping up with training requirements, and administering increasingly complex state and local standards.

Additional state support and investment is needed to address these persistent capacity gaps. Increased funding for code enforcement training, technical assistance, regionalization of code enforcement services, and local implementation support will make a real, measurable difference for municipalities, strengthening consistent administration of standards, supporting responsible development, and improving outcomes for communities.

Sincerely,

The Maine Association of Regional Councils