

February 25, 2026

Chair and Members of the Environment
and Natural Resources Committee (ENR)
111 Sewall Street
Cross Building, Room 216 Augusta,
Maine 04333

Subject: LD 2174 – SAVE ‘Home Rule”

Dear ENR:

I am writing to express that I do not support Bill LD2174. I do not agree with replacing municipal home rule nor do I agree with abolishing municipal ordinances having more stringent standards than the state. Ordinance standards are dictated by the citizens in the municipality and placed into town law based upon a majority vote by the citizens living in that municipality. This bill has no consideration of the implications for local governance, environmental sustainability, or community rights.

Impact on Home Rule

One of the primary concerns is the **removal of home rule** provisions. Home rule allows local municipalities to govern themselves and make decisions that best reflect the needs and preferences of their communities. This bill may limit local authority by placing decisions about renewable energy projects and transmission development in the hands of state agencies or corporations. Such a shift could disregard the unique characteristics and concerns of Maine communities, undermining their autonomy.

Environmental Considerations

While the focus is on renewable energy, the replacement act could lead to negative environmental impacts. The original Waterway Development and Conservation Act prioritized protecting Maine's waterways and ecosystems, crucial for biodiversity and community recreation. Transitioning to a bill that emphasizes energy development could compromise these environmental protections and result in habitat destruction, water quality degradation, and increased industrial activity in sensitive areas.

Economic and Social Implications

The shift towards renewable energy infrastructure might favor corporate interests over local economic development. Communities may lose out on potential benefits from localized renewable energy initiatives, such as community solar projects or localized wind installations. Instead, larger corporations may dominate the renewable energy landscape, potentially leading to reduced local job opportunities and economic investment.

Conclusion

Opposition to the replacement of the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act reflects a commitment to protecting local governance, safeguarding the environment, and fostering true community empowerment in sustainable development efforts. Maine should pursue renewable energy solutions without sacrificing community rights or environmental integrity.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carrie Peabody
Jonesport, Maine

Carrie PEABODY
JONESPORT
LD 2174

Please enter the attached testimony regarding LD 2174 into the public record. I do NOT plan to testify in person or on Zoom.

Please send confirmation of receipt of the attached word document for the hearing tomorrow at 1:00 p m.

Thank you.