

MAINE SERVICE CENTERS COALITION

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Testimony of the Maine Service Centers Coalition LD 2174, An Act to Replace the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act with the Maine Renewable Energy and Associated Transmission Development and Conservation Act

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Maine Service Centers Coalition is submitting testimony in opposition to LD 2174, An Act to Replace the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act with the Maine Renewable Energy and Associated Transmission Development and Conservation Act.

The Maine Service Centers Coalition, comprised of 27 towns and cities across the state, articulates the importance of healthy and thriving service center communities, advocates for public policy that supports and contributes to the economic and social viability of our communities, and collaborates with municipal officials, legislators, state agencies and nonprofits to pursue quality of life for all who live and work in our state.

Maine has long recognized local control as sacrosanct, and our Coalition firmly supports this principle. LD 2174 violates that principle. The bill states municipalities “may not enact a moratorium that delays local review of the renewable or clean energy project, enact or enforce a land use ordinance that prohibits siting of the proposed development or enact a land use ordinance or ordinance provision that includes standards or criteria more strict than those of state law or that would frustrate the purpose of any state law.”

This language clearly undermines municipal authority, limiting us to only providing comments on projects with significant impacts on our cities and towns. It also undermines the time and efforts volunteer planning boards have given to creating land use policies that work for individual municipalities. Our Coalition partners must be allowed to develop and implement local ordinances based upon what is best, necessary and, importantly, safest for our communities.

We respectfully ask you to vote ought not to pass on LD 2174.

Thank you for your time.