



AGC MAINE

THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Matthew Marks in Support of LD 207 as Amended
"An Act to Transfer Responsibility for Administering the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code
from the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to the Department of
Professional and Financial Regulation"

Joint Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

March 19, 2023

Senator Bebbe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice my name is Matthew Marks, I am a Principal at Cornerstone Government Affairs, and here today to speak on behalf of my client The Associated General Contractors of Maine. AGC Maine is a statewide commercial construction trade association and a Chapter of AGC America which was founded in 1918 with 27,000 contractors, suppliers, and service providers.

AGC Maine supports the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code as a statewide policy to ensure a uniform approach to building construction. As many of you know, the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board is charged with under the law "is established to adopt, amend and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, to resolve conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and the fire and life safety codes in Title 25, sections 2452 and 2465 and to provide for training for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors."

However, the Board has been moved multiple times between agencies and in discussions with the Department we believe there is value in having discussions to improve the Board's ability to meet the charges in the law. For example, each review of the code requires the assembly of Technical Advisory Groups and depending on timing and availability all parties have struggled to gather input in the process.

The Board is also charged with education and training on the evolving codes that have become increasingly complicated for both education and enforcement. While we are not suggesting that the state carry the burden of educating the private sector, it would be beneficial to have direct conversations on the ability to increase the efficiency and reach of the training to ensure compliance.

Code adoption is extremely important and complex. The codes must ensure public safety, health, and environmental standards. The integration between all three priorities requires a detailed review and communication of those changes. In recent years Maine has fallen behind in adoption, and today is forcing the unusual situation of having just adopted codes and nearly two years later rolling out a new version. We also feel it's important to examine the cost-benefit analysis, especially as the state works to provide more housing.

In conversations with the bill sponsor, the Fire Marshal's office, and others AGC Maine believe it will be a benefit for the regulated community and regulators to have direct discussions on ways we can improve MUBEC. I encourage the Committee to pass this bill.