



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
NFNA on LD 1752

Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types

May 9, 2023

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, my name is Judy East, and I am the Director of the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning (BRILUP). I am speaking on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) neither for nor against LD 1752, *Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types*.

This bill directs BRILUP to contract with a consultant to establish a set of building types that municipalities may adopt as preapproved building types to reduce the cost and time associated with processing building permit applications. BRILUP must report back on its efforts to this committee no later than November 6, 2024. This committee may report out legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

DACF favors establishing mechanisms to promote affordable housing. Identifying building types with strong visual depictions and extensive public input will help to reduce the time and uncertainty associated with obtaining development review approval. Time and uncertainty are among the most critical factors affecting the decision to move forward on development projects.

We know of several pending legislative initiatives to provide pre-approval, financing, or special incentives for various housing types. Other pending legislative initiatives reference preapproved building types. It will be essential to identify procedures for how municipalities can “opt-in” and adopt preapproved buildings and the extent that existing municipal standards apply to them.

BRILUP at DACF, in coordination with the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), is very interested in working with the sponsor and interested parties to move forward on these issues.

Thank you for your time. I would happily answer any questions now or at the work session.

HARLOW BUILDING
18 ELKINS LANE
AUGUSTA, MAINE



PHONE: (207) 287-3200
FAX: (207) 287-2400
WEB: WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF