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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
IN SUPPORT OF LD 1787**

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Statutes

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) in support of LD 1787, *Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Statutes*.

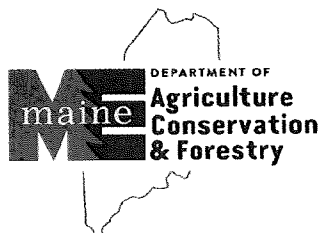
As the title reflects, this Resolve requires that DACF, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, convene a stakeholder group to review and recommend a comprehensive overhaul and modernization of the subdivision laws in Titles 12 and 38. The Departments must submit a report to their respective legislative committees, which in turn may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

The Department agrees that the subdivision laws are overdue for review. However, the bill only references Titles 12 and 38 while also referring to provisions in Title 30-A. Also, the subdivision provisions of each title are only part of each statute. We recommend that the bill also refer to Title 30-A and that instead of a “comprehensive overhaul”, the stakeholder group recommend “a modernization of the subdivision laws...”

In addition, this will be a substantial undertaking, and the timeframe proposed of approximately five months is insufficient to meet the bill’s objectives properly. It is particularly important to allow sufficient time for extensive input from interested parties. The range of interested parties is considerable and includes municipal officials (Select Boards, and Councils, Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officers, Assessors); planning and GIS professionals at the town, regional and state levels; large landowners; county land registries; and communities of interest in legal, real estate, land conservation, and natural resources areas. Given the important stakeholder process that this comprehensive review necessitates, DACF recommends a deadline of December 6, 2025, to properly involve interested parties.

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

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