



**Community Development
Planning Division**

Thomas M. Poirier, *Director of Community Development*
tpoirier@gorham.me.us

Carol Eyerman, *Town Planner*
ceyerman@gorham.me.us

Damon Yakovleff, *Assistant Town Planner*
dyakovleff@gorham.me.us

GORHAM MUNICIPAL CENTER, 75 South Street, Gorham, ME 04038

Tel: 207-222-1620

TESTIMONY OF THE TOWN OF GORHAM
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED AGAINST LD #1976
“An Act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws”

DATE OF HEARING: NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Honorable Senator Pierce, Honorable Representative Gere, Distinguished Members of the
Committee on Housing:

The Town of Gorham, Maine Community Development Planning Division has reviewed LD 1976
“An act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws” and recommends a Committee vote of
Ought Not to Pass as the bill is currently drafted. While we recognize that improvements may be
needed to modernize the Growth Management Law, this bill – as drafted - would encode several
problematic elements into statute.

Before any changes are made to the Growth Management Law, we strongly recommend that there
be a robust stakeholder process to incorporate input from a diverse group of municipalities, State
and regional planners, housing advocates, economic development interests, conservation groups,
and other affected parties. We join others, including the Maine Association of Planners, in
recommending that the stakeholder group be led by staff at the Bureau of Resource Information and
Land Use Planning (BRILUP).

To be clear: Gorham supports improving the planning process at the state level. We appreciate the
work that has gone into the proposed revisions to the Growth Management Law. This effort should
be viewed as a first step in the process to review the law and determine which provisions should be
updated, whether through the rulemaking process or by changes to statutes.

At this time, we cannot support the wholesale changes introduced in LD 1976, and urge the
legislature to take a different path that incorporates robust stakeholder input before making any
changes. We are open to changes to the Growth Management Law and will do our part to offer
input to that process.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Poirier
Director of Community Development