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Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, thank you so much for the opportunity for me to present LD 103, An Act to Make Changes to the Land Use Regulation Laws. This is the Department's bill so I will only speak briefly to the bill before giving the hearing over to them to discuss the bill in greater detail.

The Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) oversees planning, zoning, and land use permits for Maine's unorganized territories (UT). The law creating the LUPC has been amended multiple times to address situations where both LUPC and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have jurisdiction, aiming to minimize review duplication. While this goal has generally worked well, amendments have added complexity and caused confusion, particularly for solid waste projects requiring DEP permits.

This bill seeks to simplify and clarify the development review process for projects needing DEP permits in the UT. It consolidates related provisions, including those for projects under the Site Location of Development Act, Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act, and Solid Waste Management Act, reducing confusion and improving interpretation while maintaining proper agency review.

The bill addresses also confusion around the term "campsite" in the Commission's general management subdistrict. Currently, the statute defines a "campsite" as up to four camping sites, but the use of "camping sites" has led to confusion, especially when referring to a single site. The bill proposes changing "campsite" to "minor campground" to clarify the definition without altering the intended outcome.

Thank you for your time.