



Committee on Housing & Economic Development  
% Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

February 11, 2025

**RE: An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure**

Dear Chair Curry, Chair Gere, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development,

My name is Ania Wright and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation non-profit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of LD 1, *An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure*.

As our climate changes, Maine will continue to endure drastic shifts in temperature, intense drought periods, wildfires, sea level rise, biodiversity decline, catastrophic flooding and storms, and more. All of these consequences of climate change impact human and wildlife communities. Ensuring that Mainers can protect themselves, their families, homes, and communities from the impacts of these extreme weather events is essential. Thankfully, with bold assessment of what is needed by bipartisan leadership at this critical moment, we have an opportunity to help responsibly plan for what is ahead and provide safeguards for Maine people through LD 1.

Financial mechanisms such as the new Home Resilience Fund and Ongoing Risk Mitigation Fund will not only provide critical financial support for Maine people and their families, but can also provide benefits to our wildlife and wildlife habitat. Whether it be strengthening our shorelines or improving communication systems, bolstering resilience in these areas will have exponential benefits for Maine people and our environment.

Furthermore, we are encouraged by the creation of the State Resilience Office, which will provide much needed resources for disaster preparedness and long-term planning. We look forward to working alongside the office to utilize the risk reduction data hub in smart growth planning and for mitigating natural disaster effects to Maine people, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

This bill will help Maine build back what we've lost and better prepare for what is ahead in *smarter* ways that will help communities – wildlife and human – adapt to our changing climate. **For all who call Maine home, we encourage the Committee to support this bill.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ania Wright  
Policy Advocate