



# **AGC MAINE**

THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

## **Testimony of Matt Marks in Support of LD 1**

**An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes, and Infrastructure  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development  
February 27, 2025**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Matthew Marks; I am a Principal at Cornerstone Government Affairs and am testifying on behalf of my client, The Associated General Contractors of Maine. AGC Maine is a statewide commercial construction trade association, and a Chapter of AGC America founded in 1918 with 27,000 contractors, suppliers, and service providers nationwide.

AGC Maine has responded to countless weather emergency events throughout its history as an organization. It coordinates private sector response management to connect services, equipment, and skilled workers to the areas that are hit hardest, including ice storms, flooding, road and culvert washouts, and power outages. When I worked directly for AGC Maine, our team spent days working collaboratively with agencies responding to life-threatening situations, including powering a pump station to ensure that fire departments could respond to multi-family fires, wiring a fuel depot for accessory power so fuel could be distributed from tanks farms and sending crews to repair roads that had washed away. While we continued to train for these events, each one was different, and we often learned more about how we responded and what could be done to prevent future occurrences from impacting Maine citizens.

As the bill intends, proactive protection of identified areas at the highest risk of flooding and other natural disasters is a long-discussed approach. While AGC Maine and its members honored a prior day time and materials cost approach, the efficiency of responding during a storm, securing the right materials, and aligning the skilled workers is challenging. That means compiling, researching, and assembling the resources to identify those areas and designing a cost-efficient and practical engineering and construction approach.

The model in this bill indicates that Maine will develop those tools and secure private and Federal funding to invest before we have an additional crisis. That model is not a cost-saving venture; it will prevent the further trauma of losing a home or recovering from extensive property damage. In our view, this is long overdue and, coupled with state agencies' efforts to examine ongoing infrastructure resiliency, will help our state prepare and defend when we have a significant storm event or even an isolated crisis by reducing our risks, protecting assets in advance and having the data to make decisions on future planning.

Thank the Committee for listening to my testimony and welcoming any questions.