



AGC MAINE

THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Matt Marks Against LD 646

"Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unregulated Storm Water Pollution"

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

March 3, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Matt Marks, I am a Principal at Cornerstone Government Affairs and I'm here today to testify on behalf of my client the Associated General Contractors of Maine (AGC Maine). AGC Maine is a statewide commercial construction trade association and a Chapter of AGC America which was founded in 1918 with 27,000 contractors, suppliers, and service providers nationwide.

Maine DEP is currently at the end of a yearlong stakeholder engagement process on Stormwater Chapter 500 rules. AGC Maine participated in the process and will continue to weigh-in as the rules move forward. In the latest presentation, DEP estimated the process has reached the following benchmarks and engagement from industry, municipalities and environmental organizations:

- 12-month long process – December 2023 → December 2024
- Meetings held every month except for January and May
- 7 Steering Committee meetings
- 7 Technical Committee meetings
- 16 Subcommittee meetings
- +70 hours of meeting time

The process was led by a third-party facilitator, FB Environmental, and as indicated by the sheer number of hours and meetings, we've had a significant amount of time and energy invested in this process. There is still more work to be done, the tentative timeline includes:

- February 2025: Final Stakeholder Engagement Process Report Released
- March 2025: Begin Rule Drafting
- 2026: Final Adoption of New Chapter 500
- 2026: Updated Stormwater Manual Published

It's our belief that this bill is unnecessary and should allow the current process to continue. The subject matter is complicated, and there will be ongoing discussions between stakeholders on the impacts from the proposals that will be forthcoming. For those reasons, we encourage the Committee to vote against this bill. Thank you for hearing our comments today, and I'm happy to answer any questions.