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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



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**TESTIMONY OF  
ROB WOOD, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND RESOURCES  
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**SPEAKING NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 646  
RESOLVE, ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION TO STUDY UNREGULATED  
STORMWATER POLLUTION**

**PRESENTED BY REP. BELL**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**DATE OF HEARING:**

**MARCH 3, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Committee, my name is Rob Wood and I am the Director of the Bureau of Land Resources at the Department of Environmental Protection. I am speaking neither for nor against L.D. 646.

The Department administers several laws regulating stormwater pollution, including two State laws—the Stormwater Management Law and the Site Location of Development Law—and multiple federally delegated programs under the Clean Water Act. Under the Stormwater Management Law, projects that disturb one acre or more must obtain a Stormwater permit from the Department, with some exceptions.

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The Department would have two seats on the Commission proposed by L.D. 646. Department staff would be able to provide input to the Commission based on their experiences and knowledge. However, Department staff do not have the bandwidth to produce new data, reports, or other analyses.

The language of the resolve is broad and does not identify specific policy changes that the Commission should consider, except for policies to better reduce sources of stormwater pollution and prevent increased stormwater pollution caused by legacy sources, climate change and increasing urbanization. Under this umbrella, the Department believes it would be worthwhile for such a Commission to examine the regulatory framework for addressing chloride pollution in Maine. Chlorides are the primary stressor in certain watersheds but often cannot be regulated under the Stormwater Management Law.

The Committee should also be aware that the Department is currently undertaking a consensus-based rule development process to update its Chapter 500 Stormwater Management rules, which implement the Stormwater Management Law. Department staff have been hosting facilitated meetings with stakeholders over the past year to discuss potential revisions to the existing Stormwater rules. The Department anticipates proposing rule revisions to the Board of Environmental Protection later this year. These rules will be major substantive and, if provisionally adopted by the Board, will come to this Committee for review, possibly in the next legislative session. The Department does not anticipate that the Commission proposed by L.D. 646 would delay this process, but we would like to be clear that the Department's current rulemaking effort is separate from the proposed Commission and the Department does not anticipate waiting for the results of the Commission before proposing new rules to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee, both now and at the work session.