



## Franklin County, Maine

### *Testimony in Opposition to LD 870 – An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.*

March 20, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

My name is Commissioner Robert Carlton, of Franklin County Commissioners. I am speaking in opposition to LD 870 and the proposed changes to the membership and makeup of the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC).

We have many concerns about LD 870:

- First is that this bill expands the size of the LUPC from its current 9 members to 13 and all four of those appointments are political appointees of the Governor.
- Second, and most concerning issue with the proposed bill are these additional members no longer have a residency requirement to be in the Plantations and or Unorganized territories.
- Third, is the reduction of the timeline, recommending an appointee from 90 business days to 30 business days for the County Commissioners to recommend an appointment to the Board is unrealistic. These changes shift the power and makeup of the LUPC board from local control to Augusta.

In closing, if there are legitimate concerns about the make-up and function of the LUPC Board, solutions should be brought up in a partnership between the Counties and the State.

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