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Testimony of Rep. Cassie Julia introducing
**LD 1170, An Act to Make the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority
Responsible for the Transfer and Development of State-owned Surplus Land**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

Good afternoon Senator Curry, Representative Gere and esteemed members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

My name is Cassie Julia, and I represent House District 65, which is part of Waterville. I'm here today to introduce **LD 1170, An Act to Make the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority Responsible for the Transfer and Development of State-owned Surplus Land.**

This bill prioritizes streamlining the process for redeveloping surplus properties by making the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority (MRLBA) the responsible entity for handling surplus land declared by any government body – state, federal, municipal or otherwise.

The amendment achieves two key goals:

1. **Broadening eligibility:** It allows MRLBA to handle surplus land from any governmental body, ensuring inclusivity and consistency.
2. **Clarifying authority:** It simplifies the statute, ensuring MRLBA can act effectively without unnecessary complexity or redundancy.

This amendment addresses real-world challenges, like a current Downeast project where the federal government declared land surplus but the town lacked capacity to redevelop. LD 1170 ensures MRLBA can step in when local entities cannot.

Representative Sachs has an amendment to incorporate a resolve she introduced into this bill to help streamline things a little bit.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.