



Joseph E. Martin
Senator, District 19

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on
LD 383, An Act to Facilitate the Consolidation of the Department of
Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission
into a Single Combined Entity
April 14, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and esteemed colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I am Joe Martin and I proudly represent the citizens of Senate District 19, which includes much of Northern Oxford County and communities in Franklin County. I am here to present LD 383, *An Act to Facilitate the Consolidation of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission into a Single Combined Entity*.

This legislation represents a significant structural and administrative change to Maine's environmental and land use oversight. The bill transfers the Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), marking a key shift in governance. As a result, various sections of Maine statutes are amended to reflect this new alignment.

This move intends to streamline oversight by placing the LUPC under the environmental authority of the DEP, and introduces a new executive director position to oversee the commission within the department. The bill also initiates a transition plan to maintain operational continuity, ensuring that rules, contracts, and personnel remain effective during the shift.

Looking forward, the legislation directs the DEP, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to explore the feasibility of consolidating the DEP and LUPC into a single agency: the Maine Environmental and Land Use Commission. Recommendations on this potential merger are due by January 2026, with a goal to complete the consolidation by July 2028.

The proposed combined entity would prioritize protecting both environmental integrity and private landowner rights, with features such as streamlined permitting, transparent tracking systems, and a landowner rights. The removal of redundancy within the single department will save taxpayers money in both the short and long term.

I ask the committee to pass LD 383 unanimously, "ought to pass" and would be happy to ask any questions.