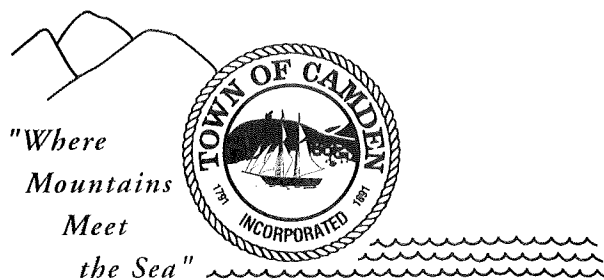


Office of:

Town Manager
Tax Assessor
Tax Collector
Town Clerk
Treasurer
Code Officer
Finance Director
Harbor Clerk



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Testimony in Support of

LD 1751 : An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws

May 7, 2025

Chairpersons Senator Curry and Representative Gere and honorable members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Jeremy Martin, and I am the Planning and Development Director for the Town of Camden. I am also a certified Code Enforcement Officer and have worked for a number of municipalities over the last twenty-five years. On behalf of the Town of Camden I am testifying today in support of LD 1751 and in opposition of LD 1940.

LD 1751 is the product of a lengthy process that was written with guidance, expertise and review by twenty-five (25) planners with decades of experience from across the state, while being supported by dozens of communities across the state, as well as the Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee, and the Maine Association of Planners. Additionally, consultations with key agency stakeholders occurred as did a thorough legal review. This bill simply provides municipalities with cost and time savings, limits legal challenges and provides towns with flexibility, especially for rural Maine communities.

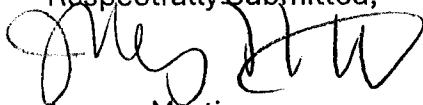
This bill has broad municipal support and improves Maine's growth management program and encourages communities to adopt and update their comprehensive plans. This bill enhances the state goals related to housing, provides cost and time savings for small towns by encouraging the creation of multi-municipal comp plans while preserving municipal review authority, streamlines the state review timelines, simplifies the inventory process, continues the current growth area exemption which provides much needed flexibility for small rural communities, and provides for consistency by linking the inventories with state goals. Maine is definitely not one size fits all, and LD 1751 appreciates and values the uniqueness of Maine's municipalities and the sense of place that is found in Maine's towns and cities.

Again, this bill has broad support from towns and cities across the state. It acknowledges that differences in communities and importantly at a time of great concern over increasing local property taxes allows communities to invest less money and volunteers efforts on

inventory and more time on getting things done, by allowing towns to obtain data from state or regional resources, which is a huge cost savings, as opposed to LD 1940 which mandates mapping data which is not readily available from state and regional resources. The current Statute is written simply and offers flexibility. Communities can be as detailed as they wish depending on the needs of their community.

LD 1751 takes steps in the right direction at improving the Comprehensive Planning process, while LD 1904, on the other hand, adds or modifies requirements without offering much in the way of relief, which in the end will be more costly, more cumbersome and more time consuming for communities. I urge you to support LD 1751 which supports the ability for towns to approach comp planning with flexibility, while also be cognizant of the increasing tax burden on our property owners. While supporting LD 1751, I urge you to also oppose LD 1904 at the hearing later today.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Martin', written over a horizontal line.

Jeremy Martin

Planning and Development Director