



MAINE OFFICE OF
**Community
Affairs**

**Testimony of the Maine Office of Community Affairs
Director Samantha Horn
May 15, 2025**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
In Opposition To LD 1967, Resolve, to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and
Coaching Pilot Program**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished Members of the joint standing committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Samantha Horn, Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1967, Resolve, to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Pilot Program.

The Maine Office of Community Affairs, or MOCA, was created in 2024 to foster communication and partnerships between the State and communities in this State. Our charge is to engage with municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities.

LD 1967 would require MOCA to stand up a new state program by this October with no additional resources. MOCA is in the early stages of coming together. Seven of the nine programs that will comprise MOCA are proposed to be moved to MOCA in the biennial budget and are not yet in our agency. Currently, we have two staff and are in the hiring process to stand up the State Resilience Office and Flood Ready Maine programs. Our only funding is program-specific. We are looking forward to serving the communities of Maine, but we simply do not have the resources or expertise to build a successful Energy Navigator and Coaching program at this time.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.