



60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486

1-800-452-8786 (in state)

(T) 207-623-8428

(F) 207-624-0129

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

***LD 1999 - An Act to Exclude Agricultural Leases from the Definition of "Subdivision" Under the
Planning and Land Use Regulation Laws***

January 8, 2026

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, my name is Tanya Emery, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1999 at the direction of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). The LPC is composed of municipal officials from across Maine, elected by their peers to represent member communities. MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization that aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents of Maine.

Maine subdivision law is a complex, important body of work. Municipal staff and review bodies such as planning boards must interpret state and local subdivision laws to administer and enforce these regulations. MMA supports this bill, which provides clarity regarding the intersection of subdivision law and agricultural leases, reducing the regulatory burden on working farms. Ensuring that agricultural leases do not trigger subdivision allows farmers to more readily access land, expanding workable arrangements for active farmland without getting tangled in the complex web of subdivision regulation.

MMA urges the committee to vote in favor of LD 1999. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Tanya L. Emery
Advocacy Manager
Maine Municipal Association
temery@memun.org



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