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Testimony of Rep. Anne Perry in support of LD390 "An Act Regarding the Mapping of Shoreland Zones"

Good morning Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee. I am Rep. Anne Perry and I represent nine communities in Washington County. I am here to introduce LD390, An Act Regarding the Mapping of Shoreland Zones.

This first was brought to my attention By Judy East, then Director of the Washington County of Governments and Tora Johnson, Environmentalist with the University of Maine at Machias. They were working with mapping and zoning for the communities in Hancock and Washington counties. They found that municipalities were having difficulty following the requirements because they were difficult to understand and thus follow. As we worked together on this bill, it became very apparent that this is not only a local problem but affected both the DEP and local communities who are having difficulty working with an out of date law.

The current statute and resultant guidelines contain definitions that are both ambiguous to interpret and difficult to use in a Geographic Information System (GIS) when creating municipal shoreland zoning maps. The proposed amendments clarify these definitions and provide municipalities with an efficient and technically tractable means of preparing GIS based shoreland zoning maps.

Ms. Johnson has extensive experience trying to manage this effectively via her UMachias programs and is a great resource for anyone wanting more technical information on the complications of mapping the Shoreland Zoning for localities, especially on a regional basis. I learned a great deal from her and Judy East.

Thank you for your consideration and ask you to vote ought to pass on LD390.