



## Maine Municipal Association

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Provisional Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

LD 1572 – *Resolve, To Analyze the Impact of Sea Level Rise*

May 7, 2021

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Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Neal Goldberg, and I am providing provisional testimony neither for nor against LD 1572 on behalf of MMA. Amended testimony will be provided if the comments offered today do not align with the Legislative Policy Committee’s official position.

Climate change mitigation is caked into every land use planning decision being made today and in the future. LD 1572 will require multiple actors at the state level to incorporate sea level rise impacts into the administration of the laws and rules they are charged with enforcing. Requiring some degree of standardization at the state level reduces conflicting regulation that often impedes local efforts.

The legislation also implements one of the most important strategies designated in the 2020 state climate action plan, *Strategy F3, Emphasize Resilience through Land-Use Planning and Legal Tools*. As stated in the report, “Maine is a home-rule state, which in a climate context means that local governments have the authority and responsibility for planning and implementing most activities for community resilience...The tools communities currently use — including comprehensive planning, zoning, site location of development, and stormwater and floodplain management practices — were not designed with climate change in mind. They need be updated to.”<sup>1</sup>

The state’s report is entirely representative of the present situation: (1) Local governments carry out the majority of climate changing activities. (2) The current tools at their disposal are outdated and contrary to climate change goals. (3) “The state should lead a process to update Maine’s land use laws, tools, and practices to address the threats communities face from climate-change impacts.”

LD 1572 makes Strategy F3 more than a page in our climate action plan, it puts the plan into action and makes real progress towards climate change conscious planning, zoning, and development.

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<sup>1</sup> “Maine Won’t Wait,” page 87. [https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/MaineWontWait\\_December2020.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/MaineWontWait_December2020.pdf)