

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

Jeff Marks – Maine Director & Senior Policy Advocate

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources – May 7, 2021

Honorable Committee Chairs Senator Brenner & Representative Tucker and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on *LD 1572 – Resolve, To Analyze the Impact of Sea Level Rise*.

Acadia Center is a non-profit, research and advocacy organization incorporated in Maine and committed to advancing the clean energy future by offering real-world solutions to the climate crisis. Acadia Center tackles complex problems, identifies clear recommendations for reforms, and advocates to create significant change that supports a low-carbon economy across the Northeast which can then be a model for application elsewhere. Acadia Center identifies regional, state, and local improvements that will dramatically reduce carbon pollution and improve quality of life throughout the Northeastern United States. Acadia Center supports LD 1572.

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In “*Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-Year Climate Action Plan for Maine*,” the Maine Climate Council Scientific and Technical Subcommittee developed sea-level rise projections for Maine’s coastal areas. Based on those projections, the Council recommended Strategy F3, “the state commit to manage for 1.5 feet of relative sea-level rise by 2050, and 3.9 feet by 2100...[and] the state prepare to manage for 3 feet of relative sea-level rise by 2050 and 8.8 feet by 2100.”¹

LD 1572 sets Strategy F3 into motion by requiring a consortium of State agencies to review their laws and rules and submit recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by January 1, 2022 necessary to incorporate consideration of 1.5 feet of relative sea level rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100 to help minimize project impacts of sea level rise on coastal communities and help Maine communities manage climate impacts and enhance resilience premised on science-based land-use planning tools.

Acadia Center looks forward to working with the Committee to incorporate these official sea-level rise projections into state planning and regulatory processes and give communities the tools they need to build resilience, enhance ecosystem services, and minimize harm, as recommended in Strategy F3 of the Climate Action Plan.

For more information:

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¹ Maine Climate Council, [Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-Year Climate Action Plan for Maine](#), December 2020.