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**GrowSmart Maine testimony in support for LD 1752,  
"Resolve, To Analyze the Impact of Sea Level Rise"**

May 7, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Nancy Smith and I am the Executive Director of GrowSmart Maine. We support policies, programs and projects that define and protect the value of our unique built and natural places while supporting long term economic opportunity.

I write to you today to indicate our strong support for this bill. Given our mission to sustain and improve the quality of life for all Maine communities, we recognize the imperative for Maine to proactively assess the risk of climate change as manifested by the significant increase in sea level rise. While legislation often outlines vague measurable outcomes, the **directives contained within LD 1572 are unusually specific and provide a tangible basis for making future policy decisions** which will address the real impact of the inexorable rise in sea level.

**The specific requirement that the relevant state agencies must "incorporate consideration of 1.5 feet of relative sea level rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100...." into future policy decisions speaks directly to the impending threat of sea level rise to coastal and riparian communities.** The very real danger of sea level rise poses the near certainty of significant economic and social disruption for both these communities and the state as a whole.

The opportunity presented by LD 1572 should not be overlooked and we urge you to support this important and necessary step to preserve the quality of life in Maine.

Best,

Nancy E Smith



Executive Director