

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Brian Hobart, Vice President
Sagadahoc County

Norm Fournier, Secretary-Treasurer
Aroostook County

Lauren Haven
Administrator



4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2
Augusta, ME 04330
207-623-4697
www.maine counties.org

LD 1008, An Act To Require Joint Use Entities to Establish Permanent Liaisons with All County Emergency Management Agencies

April 6, 2021

Chair Lawrence, Chair Berry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, and my name is Stephen Gorden and, in addition to serving as chair of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as board president of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in support of LD 1008.

About MCCA. Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta and currently represents 15 of Maine's 16 counties and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

About LD 1008. As drafted, this bill would require so-called "joint use entities" to designate a primary point of contact for county emergency management agencies in those counties where the entity has facilities. A "joint use entity," in turn, is any entity that is allowed to install public utility type facilities in the public right of way, including water utilities, sewer systems, internet service providers, telephone companies, electric transmission and distribution utilities, and the like.

The reason for this requirement is simple. In the event of an emergency affecting utility poles or facilities, it is essential for emergency management agencies to be able to contact any entity with facilities in the public right of way. This assists with repairs to downed wires, main breaks, and road clearance impacted by downed lines. Other than appointing a "point of contact," this bill requires nothing further.

From a practical standpoint, Maine's transmission and distribution utilities already have designated points of contact with county emergency management agencies. This bill would ensure that all other entities with utility-type facilities in the public right of way similarly designate points of contact.

For these reasons, our Association supports LD 1008, and we encourage the Committee to give this bill an "ought to pass" report.

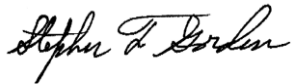
Comments of MCCA re LD 1008

April 6, 2021

Page 2

Conclusion. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen T. Gorden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Gorden" clearly legible.

Stephen Gorden
President

cc: Commissioner Brian Hobart, Chair, MCCA Legislative Committee
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel