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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

AMANDA E. BEAL  
COMMISSIONER

Re: LD 1587, *An Act to Remove the Municipal Ordinance Exemption for the Development of Nonessential Transmission Lines*

May 4, 2021

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

The Land Use Planning Commission provides planning, zoning, permitting, and code enforcement services for about half of Maine – more than 10 million acres that include 460 townships, plantations, and towns. In our capacity, we often have statutory and regulatory provisions similar to those in municipal statute and ordinance.

LD 1587 seeks to remove the municipal ordinance exemption for the development of nonessential transmission lines. It also changes the rulemaking authority under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4352, subsection 4 from routine technical to major substantive, and removes an outdated cross-reference in the law regarding high-impact electric transmission lines.

The LUPC would like to make sure that the Committee is aware that the Commission's Statute (12 MRS § 685-A)(11)) and its rules (Chapter 10.07,C) replicate the current provisions of 30-A M.R.S. § 4352(4) that would be revised by the proposed LD 1587 Section 1. Therefore, if the bill were to pass as written, there would be a discrepancy between guiding statutes for municipalities and LUPC.

Sincerely,

Stacie Beyer, Planning Manager  
Land Use Planning Commission

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