

February 11, 2025

Kaitlyn Nuzzo, Director of Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy in Maine
Kaitlyn.nuzzo@tnc.org



Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

LD 1—An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes, and Infrastructure

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Kaitlyn Nuzzo, Government Relations Director for the Nature Conservancy in Maine. **I appreciate this opportunity to offer written comments in support of LD 1.**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that both nature and people can thrive. We work in more than 70 countries, and we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners.

In the face of a changing climate that brings with it more frequent and more intense storms, Mainers need proactive and creative policies that bolster resiliency for communities across the state. The proposals in this bill offer a multi-faceted approach focusing on emergency management, infrastructure, reducing risks and costs for homeowners and businesses, and more.

The Risk Mitigation Fund outlined in LD 1 will help communities leverage Federal funding through a matching funds program to help increase the pace of projects that reduce the risk of the effects of extreme weather and climate change.

Establishing a State Resilience Office is a forward-thinking solution to our increasingly unpredictable and extreme and weather. The creation of this Office will create a centralized hub for information, planning, and increased funding for much needed projects that will increase the safety of Mainers from events like river flooding, coastal storm surge, and wildfire.

Lastly, in many areas of Maine, information on flooding is now outdated. Focusing on updated flooding information will make Mainers safer while helping to protect our natural resources through better planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I am happy to answer questions at any time.