



**Maine Legislature:** Committee on Housing and Economic Development  
**Public Testimony In Support of L.D. 1:** *An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes, and Infrastructure*

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Mariel Geiger, and I am submitting testimony today as the **Climate Action Chair and Policy Lead for the Surfrider Foundation Maine Chapter**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **L.D. 1**, a critical step toward safeguarding Maine's communities, businesses, and natural resources from the increasing threats of extreme weather.

Maine's coastal communities, in particular, are on the frontlines of climate change. Rising sea levels, worsening storm surges, and more frequent flooding events are already eroding shorelines, threatening marine ecosystems, and putting homes, businesses, and infrastructure at risk. These impacts aren't distant threats—they are happening now, and the cost of inaction is simply too high. **Our teams and volunteers at Surfrider Maine** see this damage first hand with regular monitoring of Maine's coastal areas and understand the critical need for action now.

**L.D. 1 provides real, actionable solutions** by:

- Helping **homeowners make climate-resilient improvements** to protect their properties,
- Strengthening **MEMA's emergency response capabilities**,
- Creating a **State Resilience Office** to coordinate flood mitigation efforts, and
- Establishing the **Flood-Ready Maine Program** to modernize and share crucial flood risk data.

This legislation aligns with **Surfrider's mission to protect our ocean, waves, and beaches**, ensuring that Maine's coastal and inland communities are better prepared for the extreme weather events we know are coming. By **investing in proactive resilience measures now**, we can **reduce future recovery costs**, protect Maine's tourism and fishing economies, and preserve our state's natural beauty for future generations.

We urge you to support **L.D. 1** and take decisive action to make Maine a leader in climate resilience. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.

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*Protecting & preserving the world's oceans, beaches and coastline!*