



David Morse
Westbrook Mayor
2 York Street
Westbrook, Maine 04092
Phone/Fax: 207-591-8110
Email: mayor@westbrook.me.us

MAYORS OFFICE

DATE: May 7, 2025

Senator Chip Curry
Representative Traci Gere
Members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development - Room 206

RE: LD 1751 An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws - **OUGHT TO PASS**
LD 1940 An Act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws - OUGHT NOT TO PASS

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Westbrook, please accept our collective testimony from Mayor David Morse, City Administrator Jerre Bryant and Senior Planner Rebecca Spitella. We would like to provide testimony for **LD 1751 with a recommendation of OUGHT TO PASS**, and LD 1940 with the recommendation of OUGHT NOT TO PASS.

LD1751 connects the need for inventory data to align with the State Goals which is the framework for a Comprehensive Plan and for that data to be provided by the State or regional resources, not a municipality. This is a huge cost savings to municipalities. Conversely, LD 1940 mandates extremely specific mapping items that are not housed by state agencies and would be more costly for municipalities to collect and map.

LD 1940 misdiagnoses the real issues with Comp Planning in Maine. The 12+ page checklist stated being stated by Build Maine exists in rule, not in statute and further is currently optional not a mandatory requirement, another misunderstanding. Legislative action on either LD 1751 or LD 1940 would not address the optional checklist, as that is a process that would occur in rule making and there is support on all sides for revisions to the rule.

What LD 1751 *does* do it removed the inventory list in statute and proposes creation of a tiered inventory system based on the State Goals, which permits a municipality to effectively reduce the inventory needs – addressing the concerns raised from the onset of this process. Once again – neither LD 1940 or LD 1751 removes or revises the requirements of the “checklist” without further action in rule.

The current Statute is written simply and offers flexibility in that way. Communities can be as detailed as they wish depending on the needs of the community. The process stated in LD1940 bill can already be done under the current statute, which is the beauty of the current statute to be flexible to the needs of a community.

LD 1751 takes steps in the right direction to improving the Comp Plan process, while LD 1904, on the other hand, adds or modifies requirements without offering much in the way of relief and will be more costly for communities to conduct. Please consider supporting LD 1751 to help all Maine Communities with Comp Planning.

We thank you for your time and consideration of our comments and are willing to participate in future discussions.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Morse
Mayor

Jerre Bryant
City Administrator

Rebecca Spitella
Senior Planner