

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO THE HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF LD 1751**

“An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws”

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday, May 8, 2025

**Honorable Senator Curry, Honorable Representative Gere, and Distinguished Members of
the Housing and Economic Development Committee**

My name is Bridget Perry, Director of Planning and Sustainability for the Town of Cumberland. I am writing to express strong support for LD 1751, "An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws," sponsored by Representative Tiffany Roberts.

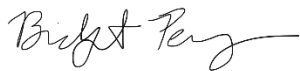
The existing statutory framework has become burdened by overly specific state-administered rules that require an exhaustive interpretation of data. This process results in comprehensive plans that are often lengthy and expensive to develop. We know that comprehensive plans are a critical tool to spur economic development, housing, and resource protection, but the current process can be a significant barrier for many communities due to its cost and complexity.

Representative Roberts' bill provides municipalities with cost and time savings, limits legal challenges, and provides process flexibility across the state, with regard for rural Maine. It acknowledges the variations among Maine communities and encourages the development of first-time comprehensive plans.

I urge the committee to give LD 1751 a favorable report. It offers necessary updates to a crucial state program, making comprehensive planning more accessible, affordable, and effective for municipalities across Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bridget Perry".

Bridget Perry, PMP, GISP, PHR
Directory of Planning and Sustainability
Town of Cumberland