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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONY OF THE CITY OF SANFORD TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED FOR LD #1976
"An Act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws"

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Honorable Senator Pierce, Honorable Representative Gere, Distinguished Members of the Committee on Housing:

The City of Sanford, Maine Planning and Development Department appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on an update to the Growth Management Program Laws. The proposed changes to law come at a crucial point in Sanford's planning journey. Our community has changed drastically since the passing of our current comprehensive plan in 2005 and as we look to craft a new plan that encapsulates the progress seen to date, as well as the community's future goals and forward momentum, we can appreciate that change is difficult.

An update to the Growth Management Law could allow communities to focus on the future and prioritize implementation so the shared goals of a community come to fruition during people's lifetimes, not decades after. Sanford supports legislative changes that empower residents, promote growth in desired areas, and protect natural resources for future generations. We hope to create a plan that is both future-focused and attainable to people at a multitude of levels be it municipal employee, developer, business owner, or resident. Our planning department understands the language of LD 1976 may not be in its final form as it appears before the committee today, but we agree that change is necessary.

As the bill progresses, Sanford would appreciate a seat at the table during discussions regarding the construction of legislative requirements and the possibility of guidance documents. If good planning takes time, great planning takes flexibility and we believe a work session with representation from planners of varying backgrounds can achieve the correct balance of flexibility and legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Erin Moriarty
City of Sanford
Planner