



**Community Development  
Planning Division**

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TESTIMONY OF THE TOWN OF GORHAM  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED AGAINST LD #1976  
“ An Act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws ”

DATE OF HEARING: NOVEMBER 14, 2023

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

The Town of Gorham, Maine Community Development Planning Division has reviewed LD 1976  
“An act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws” and recommends a Committee vote of  
**Ought Not to Pass** as the bill is currently drafted. While we recognize that improvements may be  
needed to modernize the Growth Management Law, this bill – as drafted - would encode several  
problematic elements into statute.

Before any changes are made to the Growth Management Law, we strongly recommend that there  
be a robust stakeholder process to incorporate input from a diverse group of municipalities, State  
and regional planners, housing advocates, economic development interests, conservation groups,  
and other affected parties. We join others, including the Maine Association of Planners, in  
recommending that the stakeholder group be led by staff at the Bureau of Resource Information and  
Land Use Planning (BRILUP).

To be clear: Gorham supports improving the planning process at the state level. We appreciate the  
work that has gone into the proposed revisions to the Growth Management Law. This effort should  
be viewed as a first step in the process to review the law and determine which provisions should be  
updated, whether through the rulemaking process or by changes to statutes.

At this time, we cannot support the wholesale changes introduced in LD 1976, and urge the  
legislature to take a different path that incorporates robust stakeholder input **before** making any  
changes. We are open to changes to the Growth Management Law and will do our part to offer  
input to that process.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Poirier  
Director of Community Development