

**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED AGAINST 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 Maine Association of Planners appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on an update to the Growth Management Program Laws. Our members have spent many, many hours with communities preparing comprehensive plans that comply with the Growth Management Laws and further community goals. Through this experience, we have a deep understanding of the issues LD 1976 aims to address. While we commend the work done on LD 1976 and appreciate the efforts of all the people involved, we **firmly believe that the updates proposed to statute would be a critical and structural mistake for two reasons:**

1. **None of the proposed amendments belongs in statute.** As planners, we emphasize that a one-size fits all approach can be problematic. The current Growth Management Law with its broad goals allows communities of all sizes to lean into their uniqueness and thus we don't feel a single method as proposed is appropriate. The Growth Management *Rules*, however, are too specific and contain the issues we have identified that challenge communities. We think much of the great work included in LD 1976 would be appropriate as **routine technical rules** or **program technical assistance**.
2. **The proposed amendments are not supported by any planning or municipal association.** Building off the great work that has brought these issues to the committee, we support a process, of finite length, facilitated by the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning (BRILUP) to convene a stakeholder group to review the Growth Management Laws and Rule. As can be seen by the significant changes in the sponsor's recent amendment after notice of the public hearing was given less than two weeks ago, this work is immensely important and this process has not yet included key voices.

Our testimony is based on input we have received from our member planners across the state and we will be available to participate in this necessary update to the Growth Management Law and Rule.

Sincerely,

The Maine Association of Planners Legislative Policy Committee

