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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Testimony of Representative Traci Gere on LD 1476,
“Resolve, Directing the Maine Economic Growth Council to
Create and Share Measures of Progress”
April 20, 2021**

Good afternoon Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business. I am Representative Traci Gere, and I represent House District 9. I live in Kennebunkport. I am testifying in support of LD 1476.

I'm a big believer in the maxim, "You manage what you measure," meaning that when you plan to regularly assess, track, and reflect on progress toward a goal, you are more likely to maintain focus on and dedication to that goal, and to ultimately achieve it.

As we develop and put into action plans to invigorate Maine's economy, drive the implementation of green technologies and fight climate change, and address our challenges in social and physical infrastructure, it's vital that we track and communicate our progress as a state. I submitted LD 1476 to assure that we have a plan for independent measurement and communication on our progress on the 10-Year Strategic Plan, and the Economic Recovery Plan.

Having a measurement plan is essential to the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government. In the functioning of our partnership and oversight work as co-equal branches, legislators, departments, and the chief executive all benefit from general agreement on priorities, a common set of metrics, and a shared understanding of how progress will be assessed. Ideally, the measurement process is conducted by an independent entity, so all parties can be confident in the objectivity of the measurement, and can rely on a third party for unbiased evaluation and advice.

A robust measurement regime is also vital in communicating with our constituents. It allows Maine people to understand whether and how our efforts are having an impact, and to see the effect of legislation and policies on our progress toward goals. It provides a common language whereby our constituents can communicate with us regarding what's working, what's not, and how we can improve. And it helps us to identify and celebrate successes and achievements and continue to inform a vision for our future, as well as recognize when we need to make changes or adjust course. It's for these reasons that Maine needs publicly facing measurements easily accessible by everyone on the internet.

After submitting LD 1476 to create just such a measurement dashboard, I was heartened to learn from the Department of Economic and Community Development that there is a commitment to

[District 9: Biddeford \(part\), Kennebunk \(part\) and Kennebunkport](#)



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measuring progress against our plans, and that the effort to develop a measurement dashboard is underway.

Based on communication with the DECD, I am proposing to work with them to amend LD 1476, in time for the work session, to include:

- Linking dashboard metrics to leading, as opposed to lagging, indicators tied to the Strategic Plan
- Identifying and including the most appropriate independent and technical partners in the measurement program
- Outlining the financial requirements of the measurement approach and dashboard, including broad stakeholder outreach and engagement

I ask you for your support for LD 1476.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Traci Gere".

Traci Gere
State Representative