



Maine Municipal  
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

LD 1211- *Resolve, To Create the Study Group To Research Balancing Development and Conservation in Maine's Coastal Waters and Submerged Lands*

May 4, 2021

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Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, and distinguished members of Marine Resources Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am testifying neither for nor against LD 1211 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association and at the direction of our 70-member Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipal officials generally support policy shaped through a balanced and informed position and believe that both threats and opportunities exist for coastal communities that need a closer review before more legislation is introduced without a complete understanding of the diversity of resources and needs for communities along Maine's 3,000 miles of coastline.

That said, they are concerned that constituency proposed in LD 1211 seems to be heavy on membership of conservation and industry groups and less on the effected municipalities who will be forced to bear the burden of the mandated regionalization requested to be examined as part of the duties of the study group.

The proposed areas of focus contain 160+ municipalities and only call for a single municipal member based on each bay area. These areas contain both island and peninsula community interests with differing capacity, access to resources, and community needs that must be considered under the focus areas proposed in the bill. Officials are concerned that a single municipal member from such a large geographic area could undermine municipal buy in necessary to support future proposed legislation that may be recommended by the group.

For these reasons, the Association proposes adding additional municipal membership to include representation from both island and peninsula communities in each bay region proposed.