

Friends of Penobscot Bay

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

Good morning Marine Resource committee, I am Ron Huber executive director of Friends of Penobscot Bay

Friends of Penobscot Bay is a citizens' group dedicated to oversight of Maine's biggest bay.

We are writing in support of LD 1211 "Resolve, To Create the Study Group To Research Balancing Development and Conservation in Maine's Coastal Waters and Submerged Lands".

In Penobscot Bay and all along the Maine coast, our lands and state waters are presently experiencing the effects of a warming climate. and the growth surges it brings, both on land and in state waters

The state needs to take a hard look at the effects these have on the ecologies thus the economies of coastal Maine from development replacing natural lands with solid surfaces and natural viewsheds to views of growth

Maine did this once in the 1980s and early 90's and benefited greatly by it

Back then, the state realized it needed to consider all at once the effects of multiple development and growth projects in Maine's entire coastal zone, from New Hampshire to New Brunswick.

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The State Planning Office was created. Tasked to discover the gaps in Maine environment and conservation laws and the efficacy the agencies in implementing them. The SPO discovered that, instead of the big picture the agencies laws and rules took a scattershot approach,

Thanks to that intensive planning effort this has changed. State laws and regulations began to consider and weigh the cumulative impact to our coasts of many individual development and pollution permits could have along a large stretch of the coastal zone

This needs to happen again. LD 1211 will let Maine take another hard look at those same issues the state's growth mgmt initiatives identified and dealt with back then.

The membership of the study group is tweakable. We prefer at least one more fishery representative.

But in closing Maine needs this study group to create standards, that agencies can use to keep present and future coastal development from overwhelming the living natural resources that make our coast so extraordinary.

Please give LD 1211 an Ought to Pass.

Thank you!

Ron Huber
Friends of Penobscot Bay