



**Testimony of Executive Director, Ben Lucas**

Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 446 “An Act To Reestablish the State Planning Office”

March 3rd, 2021

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Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and members of the Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Ben Lucas and I serve as the Executive Director of the Maine Jobs Council. The Maine Jobs Council is a new, statewide, nonpartisan, member-driven advocacy organization that advances public policies to support the creation and preservation of foundational jobs in Maine. I am here today to testify Neither For Nor Against LD 446.

I want to start by commending Representative Bailey for introducing this legislation and the Maine Jobs Council fully supports developing a long term plan. That plan should include informed analysis to make the best possible public policy decisions.

We believe the objectives of LD 446 to reestablish the State Planning Office is only part of the solution. Such an endeavor should also involve a wider group of stakeholders, including those who are providing foundational jobs to Maine citizens. This would facilitate input from companies that employ thousands of hardworking Mainers.

Having a comprehensive plan is critical for the economic future and success of our state. Policy solutions should be strategic, long-range and connected to a long-term vision and plan for the future. Normally, the Maine Jobs Council would support more efficient government rather than expansion, but this expansion, if well done, would lead to a better and more effective government and the Maine Jobs Council does support that.

Thank you for allowing me to testify and I am happy to answer any questions.

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