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Committee on State and Local Government
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

March 3, 2021

RE: LD 446, An Act to Reestablish the State Planning Office

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlock, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of LD 446, An Act To Reestablish The State Planning Office on behalf of the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions.

The mission of the Maine State Planning Office (SPO) expressed by statute when it was established in 1968 was “to help build a sustainable future for Maine’s communities, businesses and residents.” SPO’s core duties included coordinating the development of the state’s economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources and providing technical assistance to municipalities and regions.

The SPO was eliminated in 2012 but the need “to help build a sustainable future for Maine communities, businesses, and residents” has greatly increased since then with impending climate change effects and a lack of municipal capacity to plan for community climate resilience. Technical assistance for towns to draft comprehensive plans, open space plans, and land use ordinance provisions is sorely needed. LD 446 Reestablishing the State Planning Office would go a long way in addressing this need. We urge support for LD 446.

Sincerely,

Fred Snow
President of Maine Association of Conservation Commissions

