

M.C.C.A.

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LD 462, An Act To Reexamine the Relationship among County, Municipal and State Governments

March 8, 2021

Chair Baldacci, Chair Matlack, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as chair of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as board president of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee neither for nor against LD 462.

About MCCA. Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was founded in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta and currently represents 15 of Maine's 16 counties and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

Our position on LD 462. LD 462 is a concept draft that calls for further exploration of opportunities to improve government services in Maine, including the role that counties can play. As a general matter, the Maine County Commissioners Association is supportive of this goal, and we would be happy to participate in any effort or working group to evaluate opportunities for Maine's counties to play a role in helping to deliver cost-effective, high quality services to Mainers on a regional basis. At this point, we are neither for/nor against LD 462 because we have not seen any specific language for the bill; however, we would be pleased to work with the sponsor and the Committee to develop language that would move this concept forward.

Conclusion. We appreciate the opportunity to provide information to the Committee, and if we can assist further in this regard, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Gorden". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Stephen Gorden
President

cc: Commissioner Brian Hobart, Chair, MCCA Legislative Committee
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel