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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST LD 380

An Act Regarding Monhegan Plantation

APRIL 25, 2023

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Stacie Beyer, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC). I am speaking as neither for nor against LD 380, *An Act Regarding Monhegan Plantation*.

This bill was a concept draft that would support Monhegan Plantation in addressing any needs arising during the 131st Legislature. I understand that the sponsor of this bill, Representative Craft, has amended the concept draft bill. The new title is *An Act Providing for the Supply of Water to Monhegan Plantation*. The amendment would transfer the assets and obligations of the Monhegan Water Company to Monhegan Plantation. It would also provide general rule-making authority to the Monhegan Plantation Board of Assessors to prevent pollution and preserve the purity of the water of “the meadow aquifer.”

LUPC serves as the planning, zoning, and permitting authority for Maine’s unorganized and deorganized areas, which include plantations that do not have local control over land use. Monhegan Plantation is in the Commission’s service area. 12 M.R.S. §681.

This bill would significantly improve Monhegan Plantation’s ability to ensure the integrity and quality of its sole source of fresh water from the meadow aquifer on Monhegan Island. LUPC supports the Plantation taking a more proactive approach to managing its aquifer. Section 7 of the proposed amendment to LD 380 would allow the Plantation to adopt and administer rules relevant to protecting this critical resource.

However, depending on how the Plantation would draft rules responsive to Section 7, there is potential for overlapping jurisdictions of LUPC and Monhegan Plantation in “the meadow aquifer.” LUPC would welcome language clarifying the intent of Section 7 and minimizing conflicts between the two jurisdictions, including rules already adopted by LUPC for the protection of the aquifer.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions at the work session.

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