



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

February 12, 2025

Senator Joseph Baldacci
Representative Suzane Salisbury
Committee on State and Local Government
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Baldacci and Representative Salisbury:

Please accept this letter concerning LD 247, *An Act Regarding Recommendations for Changing Place Names in the State*. This bill would create a Maine Board on Place Names, comprised of 11 members, including the State Geologist and Director of the Maine Geological Survey (MGS), a program within the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF).

The Board would also include an employee of the Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems within the Office of Information Technology (OIT). This OIT employee would be a mapping professional and serve as an unofficial liaison between the Maine Board of Place Names and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in the U.S. Department of Interior to make name changes or to name new places in a manner consistent with state intentions and federal requirements.

One change for your consideration concerns the responsibility of municipal officers and county commissioners to notify the United States Secretary of the Interior of the names of places as they appear on maps and other documents (see §1104. 2). It is unclear to us whether the OIT employee would take up the role that DACF has historically played as a liaison with the U. S. Board of Geographic Names. The proposed removal of DACF from this section puts the responsibility onto municipalities to determine contact information and existence for federal and other entities of which they may not be aware. If the OIT employee did not assume this role, we recommend that, in the interest of providing service to municipalities and counties, DACF remain the point of contact given the historical relationships between MGS and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

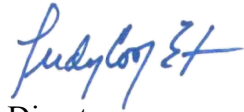
Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions at the work session.

HARLOW BUILDING
18 ELKINS LANE
AUGUSTA, MAINE



PHONE: (207) 287-3200
FAX: (207) 287-2400
WEB: WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy East". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "E".

Judy East, Director

Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning

CC: Amanda Beal, Commissioner, DACF
Emily Horton, Director of Policy & Community Engagement, DACF
Ryan Gordon, State Geologist, MGS