



## PLANNING & CODE ENFORCEMENT



### Planning & Code Enforcement

2 York Street  
Westbrook, Maine 04092  
Phone: 207-854-0638  
Fax: 866-559-0642

DATE: May 1, 2025

Senator Tim Nangle  
Representative Lydia Crafts  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

RE: LD 1632 An Act to Provide Incentives and Amend Laws Regarding Access to Protect Rural Highway Capacity and Promote Long-Term Economic Development

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennie Poulin Franceschi. I am the Director of Planning and Code Enforcement for the City of Westbrook. I would like to provide testimony regarding LD 1632, with the recommendation of OUGHT NOT TO PASS.

LD 1632's language ties the hands of MDOT in addressing safety issues in our transportation system. It requires all MDOT roads to be mandated by this bill, not just control of access highways, and further requires the action of 3 agencies (MDOT, Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority and MOCA) to grant curb cuts without firm criteria by which to deny access to a property. The Land Bank and MOCA do not appear to have the authorization to engage in a permitting role.

This brings me to the most concerning part of this bill that it appears to be a taking of private property rights as the bill stipulates that the department may waive access management rules and issue a permit for a driveway **ONLY if the property is located within a locally designated growth area identified in a state approved comprehensive plan. This removes all access rights to designated Rural lands which is a taking of private property rights. This would require MDOT to have to exert eminent domain rights to take away access to state roads and pay those property owners for that taking.**

We feel this bill is a means to force municipalities to change their Growth/Rural Designations in comprehensive planning and is not in the best interest of Maine property owners.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jennie Poulin Franceschi, P.E.*  
Director of Planning  
and Code Enforcement

*Rebecca Spitella*  
Senior Planner

*Monique Cornett*  
Deputy Director of Community  
and Economic Development