

TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SPEAKING NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST LD 1391 “AN ACT TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE IN MUNICIPAL DOCUMENTS WITH THE LANGUAGE IN COMPREHENSIVE PLANS”

DATE OF HEARING: APRIL 17, 2019

**Honorable Senator Claxton, Honorable Representative Martin, Distinguished Members
of the Committee on State and Local Government:**

My name is Jared Woolston. I am here on behalf of the Maine Association of Planners Legislative and Policy Committee to testify neither for nor against LD 1391. The Maine Association of Planners, or MAP, is an organization of over 100 members, including professional public, private, and nonprofit planners, citizen volunteers serving on local boards, and Mainers from other professions like attorneys, landscape architects, professors, and developers. Though our membership works in diverse settings, we are all dedicated to enhancing the practice of planning in Maine.

MAP is a longstanding and stalwart supporter of comprehensive planning. A comprehensive plan should be the foundation of local government land use decisions. However, LD 1391 would require updating all local land use policies at once for consistency with a comprehensive plan. No local government in Maine has the staff resources for such an undertaking.

LD 1391 ignores the *planning process*. Meaningful and time consuming stakeholder participation is required for comprehensive plans that support equity and fairness for all citizens. Rather than supporting comprehensive planning efforts, LD 1391 seeks to expose communities to legal challenges if their efforts to plan for their futures fall short of perfection.

LD 1391 is an unfunded mandate. MAP advises attaching a fiscal note if the committee chooses to support LD 1391.

MAP would be happy to answer any questions you may have about our testimony and would be pleased to work with the Committee on State and Local Government as it considers LD 1391.

