Testimony of Nancy Smith, Executive Director of GrowSmart Maine 
in support of LR 3206: "An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the 
of the law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 
2020 and June 30, 2021"

February 20, 2020

Senators Breen and Dill, Representatives Gattine and Hickman and members of the Joint Standing Committee 
on Appropriations & Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & 
Forestry, my name is Nancy Smith and I am the Executive Director of GrowSmart Maine (GSM). We are a 
statewide non-partisan organization working to create lasting prosperity without sacrificing the quality of life 
that defines Maine.

We support policies, programs and projects that define and protect the value of our unique built and natural 
places while supporting long term economic opportunity.

We are providing this testimony to indicate our strong support for certain provisions of LR 3206: "An Act 
Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General 
Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the law Necessary to the Proper Operations of 
State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021". In particular, we are in 
favor of the provision within the Supplemental Budget for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation 
and Forestry (DACF), Geology and Resource Management (page A-10) which establishes a Public 
Service Manager I position to oversee the Municipal Planning Assistance Program (MPAP) which is 
now housed within the Geology and Resource Management program at DACF.

Please note that when the previous MPAP director retired, the director position was transferred to DMR, 
thereby reducing total MPAP to two positions. Restoring a director position to MPAP is essential to fill the 
crucial capacity need for municipal planning assistance as there is growing urgency for municipal 
leadership in both the work of the Climate Change Council and the State’s 10-year strategic plan. 
Municipalities across the state are in dire need of the expertise and support offered by MPAP- an organization 
desperately in need of the appropriate leadership represented by the restoration of the aforementioned 
management position.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have regarding our strong support for the 
restoration of the Public Service Manager I position within the MPAP program at DACF.