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Testimony by Nancy for GrowSmart Maine
in support of the Governor's Change Package to LD 221
Part A, Section 1 of LD 221, Exec Dept (p 62)

May 20, 2021

Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and Members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, I am Nancy Smith and I live in Monmouth. I serve as Executive Director for GrowSmart Maine, a statewide organization devoted building lasting prosperity while protecting 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 for all.

We support all portions of the Governor's package that are relevant to our work and provide this testimony with **specific support for the Initiative outlined in Part A, Section 1, on page 62 of the Budget to establish two Public Service Coordinator II positions and one Public Service Coordinator III position** in GOPIF to provide support partnerships with Maine's cities and towns, resiliency planning for sea-level rise and state-wide adaptation policy and housing and provides funding for related All Other expenses.

I have supported numerous bills and resolves this session that offer proposals to address the lack of municipal capacity for planning, and the resources to implement those plans. Each time, I have advocated that additional resources be made available to municipal and regional efforts to plan for their future. None of these proposals will provide those resources this year, but with further outreach and discussion between carry over and Commissions and studies, I'm confident they will. This proposal provides both planning expertise and resources to implement those plans beginning in this year and continuing.

Now is the time. Between the opportunity that comes with federal funds from the American Rescue Plan to recover from the pandemic, and the risks associated with climate change, Maine must empower municipalities and regional planning entities to chart a course and then implement it. We support providing state funds and staffing positions to do so.

I appreciate the chance to offer our perspective on this proposal.



Nancy E Smith
Executive Director