

LD1940 IS A COMPROMISE THAT GIVES COMMUNITIES BIG AND SMALL A CHOICE OF TOOLS FOR LONG-TERM PLANNING.

LD1940 is a Priority Bill for the Environmental Priorities Coalition.

Problem: Maine communities are dealing with complex challenges.

- Many municipalities are working to rebuild their local economies to recover from long-term industry shifts and support growth, while others are working to navigate significant population growth.
- Climate change requires new thinking about infrastructure, public services, and housing.
- Housing shortages are making it difficult for people to afford to live near their jobs and almost impossible for communities to attract new workers and families.
- Social isolation is a critical public health issue, impacting physical, mental, and emotional health.

Solution: LD1940 gives communities a choice of methods for meeting these challenges. It updates the Growth Management law and offers two sets of tools for Comprehensive Plans.

- Comprehensive planning is the tool that Maine municipalities – big and small – use to plan, illustrate, and envision how they want their communities to look and function in the future.
- Depending on the needs of each community, towns and cities can decide which Comp Planning path is best for them. They can use existing methods or a new method that takes less time and money but still gets good results.
- **LD1940 as amended is a compromise**, keeping the old and welcoming the new. It lets each town and city make the best choice for them.



Proposed new village, Windam Comprehensive Plan

This update to the Comprehensive Plan process will lead to better outcomes.

- Maine towns can focus on local priorities and implementation strategies for sustainable economic development, community revitalization, and strategic land protection.
- This bill updates definitions of critical natural resources, protects access to farmland, and promotes the viability of agriculture to safeguard Maine's rural character, working lands, and heritage industries.
- It encourages municipalities to direct new development to growth areas of their choosing, making efficient use of public services and existing infrastructure while preventing development sprawl and associated traffic.
- Updating our Growth Management Law will help Maine communities address the current housing crisis without undermining climate action or creating the next crisis in access to working farmland, forests, water, and outdoor recreation spaces.

**Support Maine communities.
Vote for Majority OTP-A on LD1940.**



Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is an inclusive statewide alliance of 39 conservation, climate action, and public health organizations. Each year we collectively identify a slate of policy priorities to act on the climate crisis, further environmental justice, protect land, water, and wildlife, and cultivate healthy Maine communities.



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