The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the Authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1095, “An Act To Establish the Maine Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission.”

This bill creates an unnecessary commission to study coastal hazards. New Hampshire had a similar group that consumed significant resources over a two-year timeframe to develop a report and recommendations for their 16 miles of coastline. Maine has over 3,400 miles of coastline. Additionally, with no sunset provision in this bill, there is no incentive for the commission to produce meaningful results in a timely manner.

Coastal communities concerned with these issues are already addressing topics like storm surge and adaptation strategies. Federal and state agencies such as the Shoreland Zoning program within the Department of Environmental Protection; the coastal program within the Department of Marine Resources; the Maine Geological Services within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; the Maine Prepares program within the Maine Emergency Management Agency; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the National Nonstructural Committee within the Army Corps are all working with Maine communities to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies.

It does not make sense to create a legislative mandate for work already being done, particularly if part of that work will result in additional statewide legislation for municipalities to have to comply with that may be contrary to the individual, specific needs of a particular municipality.

Since much of this work is already being addressed, I am returning LD 1095 to you unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor