

February 19, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee of Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee of Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement & Business:

My name is Sarah Hansen and I am the Executive Director of Greater Portland Landmarks. Founded in 1964, Greater Portland Landmarks' mission is to preserve and revitalize greater Portland's remarkable legacy of historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes and parks. Our goal is to save greater Portland's historic places through preservation and adaptive reuse while promoting creative new architecture that enhances historic neighborhoods.

We are providing testimony to indicate our **strong support for LD 221: 2022-2023 Biennial Budget. Specifically, we urge you to support the \$58,000 allocation to the Maine Development Foundation (\$25,000 to Maine Downtown Center and the \$33,000 to Maine Development Foundation).** The Maine Development Foundations Maine Downtown Center, (MDC) program serves as a statewide resource for preservation-based downtown revitalization and serves as the state coordinator for the National Main Street Center's Main Street Program. Established in 1999, MDC's mission is to advance economic development in Maine downtowns using the 40-year-old Main Street Four-Point Approach®.

The Main Street Approach is one of the most powerful economic development tools in the nation for vibrant, healthy downtowns and commercial districts. Maine Downtown Center currently has 10 nationally designated Main Street Maine programs and 16 state designated Maine Downtown Affiliate programs and works with scores of other communities and neighborhoods on revitalization and enhancement efforts. We firmly believe Main Streets are for everyone, and at the core of this approach to revitalization is a commitment to creating places of shared prosperity, equal access to opportunity, and inclusive engagement.

We urge you to adopt LD 221 and provide ongoing financial support for the highly successful and critically important programs of the Maine Development Foundation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have regarding our support of LD 221.

Cordially,



Sarah Hansen  
Executive Director