

Date: Dec 21, 2022

Dear Senator Troy Jackson, Representative Rachel Talbot Ross and the assigned Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

My name is Ray Thombs (Toms) from Union Maine, House District 44 and Senate District 12. I am Mainer raised & Married 35 years to my 7th grade sweetheart. We have 2 living children. One Son-In-Law and One 16-year-old granddaughter. I am a Retired Military member and Business Owner. I represent the voice of four hundred thousand Maine voters who desire to see Maine flourish.

I stand in opposition to LD3. From my perspective moving forward with this ACT basically incarcerates wisdom and throws away the keys. Additionally, passing this ACT only continues to set the standard for an increasing frequency of declaring emergencies that I believe is unwise. Governing is meant to be slow and methodical and benefit the general welfare of its citizens.

The general welfare of our citizens would be violated by passing LD3. The 'General Welfare' statement is not about welfare as it has become known today. General welfare is about the common GOOD of the citizens. LD3 is not a 'Common Good' ACT due to its enormous price tag. If you take the total cost of this ACT and divide it up between all senators and representatives, it would be aprx 2.5 million dollars per person. Imagine attempting to raise those kinds of funds from your districts to pay for this ACT?!

It is not the duty of the Maine government nor the Federal government to use the potential projected overages in tax dollars, to fund this spending. Many of the citizens we desire to help with this ACT have already obtained or can obtain the aid they need. Most communities already have funding mechanisms and organizations in place to assist.

I would urge all our Senators and Representatives to dig deeper into how this ACT is being funded. I recommend a thorough review be undertaken of the 35-page STRESS TESTING MAINE GENERAL FUND REVENUES & RESERVES from October 2022 and the 94-page REPORT OF THE MAINE STATE REVENUE FORECASTING COMMITTEE from Dec 2022. Dissect these reports to see how the projected tax revenue, the 6.2% increase in emergency funds, the revenues collected above and beyond the revenues budgeted for, and the recessionary predictions of our 2023 to 2027 tax revenues. See how these items will affect our future economy and financial standing in the US. Thus far, I am only a few days into examining this data but I'm beginning to draw a conclusion that we will painfully regret the decision to implement this ACT if it goes to the House floor.

Instead, I leave you with these 3 Recommendations to implement in January:

- Suspend all fuel taxes until May 1, 2023
- Suspend all sales taxes for the same time period
- Pay back the current 'overages' to those businesses and citizens through their 2022 tax Returns

Warm Regards

Ray Thombs

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