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Senator Jackson, Representative Talbot Ross and the Appropriations Committee Members:

I live in Raymond, Maine and am a former Maine House member. I appreciate this opportunity for public comment but see this bill as a band aid, given the problems in Maine are much bigger. As to this bill, I recently filled a partial tank of heating fuel and it cost over \$900. While \$450 of taxpayer supplied money would pay some of that, it is not a solution. As a former program director for street programs, I know of many instances where people received targeted support (like this proposal) and then used it for other uses, not what was targeted.

It is my dream that this legislature come in and decide to do things differently, not post 2,000 new (proposed) laws and go through the motions. Imagine the leadership that would pick 5(?) Maine issues (such as Energy, Housing, Infrastructure-school buildings and bridges, homelessness and say...our youth leaving). Then seek to solve these issues.

It would be outside the box for sure. I again thank you for this public hearing but am hopeful this will not be a business as usual year.

I and many others are praying for you!
Mike