

Liz Eisele McLellan  
Westbrook Community Housing Coalition  
LD 3

PLEASE REPLACE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY WITH THIS  
VERSION. THANK YOU.

Thank you for holding this Public Hearing.

We are a group of community members, faith leaders, school and city representatives, and nonprofit organizations looking to help ease the burden of becoming unhoused for our friends and neighbors. Partnering with One Westbrook, we have organized as the Westbrook Community Housing Coalition and have been working together to address the housing crisis within Westbrook.

The impact of losing the ERA funding at the onset of winter has exacerbated the current housing situation. As we head into a Maine winter, we are fearful for Mainers who live paycheck to paycheck or have already found themselves out in the cold. As the temperatures drop, and oil and electricity prices soar, there is no doubt that people will suffer.

In Westbrook, we have 52 students (and their families) that are unhoused and over 200 families that have already lost their ERA funding. These numbers do not include unhoused individuals who do not have children in the school system and are living in their cars or on the streets. In surrounding towns, there are 700 families that are losing their ERA funding at the end of the month.

We are trying to stem a tsunami in the middle of a nor'easter. We encounter obstacles at every turn. Even when we know who to send someone to, they do not have enough resources to help. We also have a lot of new Mainers living in Westbrook, many who are not yet eligible to work, who need to get through the winter.

The challenges are many, but they can be faced together. Emerging from the current crisis is going to take all of us. It cannot be put on individuals, volunteers and organizations. We need support and financing from the State of Maine. Our friends and neighbors, our fellow Mainers, need your help to survive the winter.

Please listen to these stories and testimonies with compassion. You have the ability and the budget to help the people in Maine that need it most. Do the right thing.

Westbrook Community Housing Coalition

Amanda Atkinson Lewis  
Amy Grommes Pulaski  
Andre Davis  
Beatrice Mucyo  
Belinda Kande  
Bob Lowell  
Charlie Gauvin  
Chris LaRoche  
Christophor Gilbert  
Christine Manegabe  
Claude Rwaganje  
Dacoda Maddalone  
Dan Glover  
David Morse  
Denise Quint  
Deqa Dhalac  
Grayson Lookner  
Greg Post  
Harrison Deah  
Heather Latham  
James Devine  
Jen Munro  
Jerre Bryant  
Jessica Moninski  
Jo Freedman  
John Corbin  
Joy Knight  
Karen Indorf

Katie Garrity  
Kevin Lambertson  
Kristina Yurko  
Leslie Foley  
Linda Anderson  
Liz Eisele McLellan  
Lucas Schrage  
Madeleine R. Saucier  
Mardochee Mbongi  
Martha Lavoilet  
Megan Perry  
Melissa Esty  
Michael Foley  
Michael Shaughnessy  
Michelle Lamm  
Mike Miles  
Mufalo Chitam  
Natalie Lonstein  
Nsiona Nguizani  
Odilia Silveira-Harmon  
Pasteur Samuel Luzingu  
Pastor Ken MacLeod  
Peter Lancia  
Placid Mowa  
Prosper Lohomboli  
Rachel P. Riendeau  
Regina Clement  
Robin Talbot  
Rod Mahoua  
Ruben Torres  
Scott Dupee  
Scott Linscott  
Solange Carpenter  
Solange Ngero  
Spencer Barton  
Steve Goldberg  
Sue Salisbury  
Terry Patten  
Tobin Williamson  
Tyler Norod  
Victoria Morales  
Zoe Sahloul