



Kate Lewis, *Mayor*

To: Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

From: Mayor Kate Lewis, City of South Portland

Date: 1/25/2023

Re: Part C of LD 206

Testimony in opposition to Part C of LD 206, HP127, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Senators Rotundo and Chipman, Representative Sachs and Williams, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Taxation:

I join you today to testify on behalf of the City of South Portland in opposition to Part C of LD 206, HP127, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023.

Section C of LD 206 proposes to re-allocate \$10,000,000 that was originally allocated to rehabilitate Portland Harbor's working waterfront and sustain an estimated \$1 billion in economic activity. This regional project would see Portland Harbor dredged for the first time in decades to protect the berthing that waterfront industries and vessels need to operate, as well as the construction of a Confined Aquatic Disposal cell to responsibly store the contaminated sediment.

Dredging will stabilize losses and expand the potential of the harbor for fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, and emerging opportunities in the local, regional, and state "Blue Economy."

I strongly urge the Committee to leave in place the allocation of \$10,000,000 to rehabilitate / dredge piers, wharfs, and berthing space along Portland Harbor's working waterfronts. This

allocation will help sustain the aforementioned \$1 billion in estimated annual economic activity on one of the most important ports in the state. I respectfully ask that you vote to oppose the above-referenced reallocation of these funds.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Lewis, Mayor
City of South Portland

William Mann
South Portland
LD 206

William J. Mann
Testifying for the City of South Portland and submitting testimony from our Mayor in
opposition of this proposed legislation.