Augusta Downtown Alliance P.O. Box 2066 Augusta, ME 04338



February 8, 2023

Attn:

Senator Margaret Rotundo, Chair Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Representative Melanie Sachs, Chair, Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

My name is Michael Hall and I'm the Executive Director for the Augusta Downtown Alliance.

For the past ten years, Maine Downtown Center has been an invaluable asset in our quest to transform Downtown Augusta into a vibrant and burgeoning center for food, art and entertainment. With the help of their guidance and educational seminars, we've been able to gain the tools necessary to develop our city center in a responsible way without compromising its historic character. I myself have relied on their advice numerous times, particularly when it comes to conducting research, and dealing with difficult situations arising from revitalization.

I truly believe that without the guidance of MDC, the Augusta Downtown Alliance would be a mere shadow of itself as an organization. I therefore implore you to continue their funding.

Sincerely,

Michael Hall

Michael Hall *Executive Director*,

Augusta Downtown Alliance

cc. Clerk Justin Purvis, (State House Room 228, AFA@legislature.maine.gov)