



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

In Support of
LD 258, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State
Government, General Fund...for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

Community Resilience Partnership (A-289)

February 17, 2023

Senators Rotundo and Nangle, Representative Sachs and Stover, and members of the Appropriations and State & Local Government Committees. My name is Kate Dufour, and I am offering testimony in support of funding for the Community Resilience Partnership proposed in LD 258 on behalf of the 70 municipal leaders who were elected by their peers to serve on the Association's Legislative Policy Committee and directed to establish MMA's position on bills of municipal interest.

The appropriation of \$3 million in each year of the proposed budget for the Community Resilience Partnership is important, because the program is intentionally designed to meet communities where they are on the path to becoming more resilient to weather related events and the impacts of climate change. Whether it is addressing energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings, taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or protecting watersheds, the program provides funding opportunities for all municipalities.

The 2022 Community Resilience Partnership annual report illustrates the scope and reach of this program among our members. Municipalities in communities across the state of varying populations and fiscal and workforce capacities have benefited from the partnership. For example, last year the town of Carthage received nearly \$37,000 to make energy efficiency updates to municipal buildings, while the town of Fort Kent received \$50,000 to conduct a comprehensive street drainage study. Whiting received \$26,750 to complete a flood protection checklist and develop an accompanying community-wide communications system. By working collaboratively, Blue Hill and Brooksville were awarded \$125,000 to conduct a community vulnerability assessment.

In all, the partnership funded over 70 locally initiated projects, which enabled municipalities to advance statewide goals without placing additional burdens on the property taxpayers.

Municipal officials urge our support of this appropriation. If you have any questions about our position, please contact me at kdufour@memun.org or 592-4038.