



CITY OF BANGOR

February 16, 2023

Testimony in Support of the Community Resilience Partnership Funding as part of LD 258: An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and the State and Local Government Committee. My name is Courtney O'Donnell and I am the Assistant City Manager for the City of Bangor. I am providing testimony today in support of LD 258 that provides funding for the Community Resilience Partnership.

The funding in LD 258 for the Community Resilience Partnership is an important step to ensuring Mainers are better equipped to reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. This funding would directly support local efforts to protect what makes Maine so great.

As a member of the Partnership, Bangor has been fortunate to receive grant funds to support the installation of additional EV chargers in Bangor, as well as develop a regional climate action plan with the Town of Orono and the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (also known as BACTS). Once completed, our regional climate action plan will be publicly available for all communities in our area to take advantage of, thereby jumpstarting regional efforts to implement recommendations, many of whom would benefit great from these grant dollars.

The proposed funding increase for the Partnership in this budget shines a light on the important acknowledgement that more and more communities are embracing the urgency of climate change and should be supported in their efforts. Through our own local process, we have learned firsthand that resources for regional planning, and implementation, efforts are vitally important.

Additionally, funding for the Partnership lets the people of Maine know that we are in it for the long haul while encouraging efforts to better prepare our communities for the challenges ahead. I know a walk through our City forest, a view from the Thomas Hill Standpipe, or lunch at one of our many downtown restaurants with the Kenduskeag

Stream and Penobscot River nearby reinforce my desire to mitigate the effects of climate change while we still can. The Partnership has created an avenue for municipalities to act and for that we are appreciative.

Thank you for your time and attention. We'd be pleased to take any questions.

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