

Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters

In support 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*

Before the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

February 17, 2023

Good day Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. My name is Beth Ahearn, Director of Government Affairs for Maine Conservation Voters. My testimony today focuses on the Community Resilience Partnership within the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (pages 289-290 of the budget document). The Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) was developed as a result of a recommendation of the Maine Climate Council in the Climate Action Plan entitled *Maine Won't Wait*. The CRP provides resources to towns and Tribal governments to assist them in reducing carbon emissions, transitioning to clean energy, and building resilience to climate change effects like flooding and rising sea level. Since 2021, 131 communities have received grants from this partnership and other communities are clammering for these resources.