



Natural Resources Council of Maine

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**Testimony in Support of LD 258, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds... June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025**

**Climate Resilience Partnership Provisions**

**To the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
by Josh Caldwell, Climate and Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator  
February 17, 2023**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Josh Caldwell. I am the Climate & Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator at the Natural Resources Council of Maine. NRCM has been working for more than 60 years to protect, restore, and conserve Maine's environment, on behalf of our 25,000 members and supporters. I am submitting testimony in support of the Community Resilience Partnership provisions proposed in LD 258.

The Community Resilience Partnership (the Partnership) funds projects that tie directly to the goals laid out in the Maine Climate Action Plan by improving energy efficiency, electrifying our transportation system, generating new clean energy, planning for climate impacts, and more. The projects enabled by the partnership are directly reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Maine and preparing communities for the impacts of climate change.

In the Partnership's first year, it has been successful in engaging communities all across the state. Since the program was announced in 2021, 131 cities, towns and Tribal governments in Maine have chosen to participate in the program either as individual communities or through regional coalitions.<sup>1</sup> The Partnership is catalyzing local conversation and processes around climate change that would not have otherwise happened. We've heard from service providers and municipal officials around the state that the Partnership has brought community members together to discuss their collective future in the face of a changing climate, and the Partnership ensures that those conversations are solutions-oriented and result in projects with tangible community benefits. Mainers are already seeing the effects of climate change, and this program is enabling them to see the solutions as well.

The geographic and economic diversity of grant recipients is proof of the popularity of the program and the efficacy of the service provider relationships with local communities. The Partnership strengthens connections between service providers and the communities they serve and prepares municipal governments for continued community climate work.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov/future/files/inline-files/Resiliency%20Partnership%20Annual%20Report\\_2023.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov/future/files/inline-files/Resiliency%20Partnership%20Annual%20Report_2023.pdf)

Responding to the climate crisis requires an all-of-society approach. The Community Resilience Partnership illustrates how federal and state funding can be effectively directed to the community level to facilitate projects that support local climate resilience. Mainers know what is best for their own communities, and making funding available for those communities to enact self-determined climate solutions has proven to be an effective model.

The Partnership is a bright light in the implementation of Maine's Climate Action Plan, and funding this program shows the state's commitment to localized climate action and building the long-term social and physical infrastructure needed to respond effectively to climate change.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to fully support the provisions in the budget pertaining to the Community Resilience Partnership.

Thank you.