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**Maine Indoor Air Quality Council Testimony in Support of LD 1185:  
An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the  
School Revolving Renovation Fund**

*The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council (“MIAQC” or the “Council”) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating healthy, productive and environmentally sustainable indoor environments in Maine. Our efforts focus on the development of education, communications, and advocacy for safe and healthy indoor environments where Maine citizens live, work, play and learn.*

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs:

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council supports LD 1185: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund (RRF). Since its inception, the RRF has prioritized fund expenditures for health & safety and indoor air quality concerns.

However, we do have a recommendation: **We would encourage this committee to consider adding ventilation upgrades as a specific fund priority.**

- If nothing else, the COVID-19 global pandemic has raised awareness of indoor air quality. We now understand there are things in the indoor air we can't see, smell or taste, yet they can still make us sick.
- The primary tool in the building management toolbox to reduce the risk of exposure to airborne pollutants is mechanical ventilation.
- Maine has a large number of schools that were constructed before the development of minimum acceptable ventilation standards.
- There are a large number of Maine schools that have no mechanical ventilation systems at all.
- Numerous studies show a direct link between adequate mechanical ventilation and student and staff learning and productivity.

Should you wish to learn more, [a copy of the Council's own best practice guideline on school air quality is available here](#). I also recommend exploring the resources available at the [U.S. EPA's school IAQ website](#).

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council can be available for the work session to answer any questions or provide further comment.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine G. Crocker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'C'.

Christine G. Crocker, Executive Director

Maine Indoor Air Quality Council

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