



5 May, 2023

Dear Members of the Maine State Legislature,

We are writing to express our support for the expansion of Maine's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, as outlined in LD 1810, on behalf of Mechanics' Hall and the Maine Charitable Mechanics Association. As an organization founded by tradespeople and architects, we understand the importance of preserving Maine's historic buildings and believe that it is crucial for the state's economy.

Our landmark building at 519 Congress Street in Portland, with its unique architecture, has been a treasured space for artists and the wider community. It offers affordable facilities for the practice and performance of music, dance, and literary arts, and is an excellent example of the kind of historic building that is no longer constructed today. However, maintaining and upgrading these buildings can be an expensive undertaking, especially when it comes to ensuring they are energy-efficient.

We believe that LD 1810 will be a valuable tool for preserving these irreplaceable structures. By expanding Maine's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, the state can encourage investment in the restoration and maintenance of these historic buildings, promoting economic growth while safeguarding Maine's rich architectural heritage.

Thank you for considering our support for LD 1810 and for your ongoing commitment to the preservation of Maine's historic buildings.

Sincerely,

Annie Leahy, Executive Director

Bill Stauffer, Board Chair