



May 5, 2023

Re: Statement in Support of LD1810: An Act to Expand the Maine Historic Rehabilitation Credit and Establish a Weatherization Tax Credit

Dear Members of the Joint Taxation Committee,

My name is Margaret Innes. I am an historic Architect practicing in my own firm in Westbrook, Maine. I write to you today in support of LD 1810.

As you may already know, Historic Tax credit programs are very successful in Maine and the rest of the country. From 2009-2019, the present tax credits generated \$525 million in construction investment and generated 200-700 full-time-equivalent jobs! But also very importantly, we've rehabilitated 3.6 million square feet of existing building stock. With materials costs climbing we need to take advantage of what we already have. This is a winning way to do this.

As the saying goes, "the greenest building is the one already built." By assisting those who want to rehabilitate existing buildings we are also making a sustainable choice.

Lastly, by fixing up our older, residential housing stock we are enhancing our sense of place to visitors and residents alike. Part of our "the way life should be" appeal is found in the experience of shopping in a small downtown, like Norway's Main Street or strolling through a neighborhood like Portland's west end and our beloved Old Port. Buildings like the former Hathaway Shirt Mill are vibrant contributors to their communities in an entirely different manner than when they were first built – but still part of our business community.

Please vote in support of LD 1810. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret D. Innes".

Margaret D. Innes

Maine and New Hampshire Licensed Architect; LEED AP® BD+C, WELL® AP

President, Studio E, Incorporated

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