

Cary Tyson
Westbrook
LD 1810

Honorable Members of the Taxation Committee:

I urge your support of LD 1810 which will provide owners of historic homes a 25% credit on costs incurred to restore or rehabilitate exterior elements, including weatherization. The bill contains a 5% booster if the property includes an affordable apartment, makes a vacant property habitable, or if the owners are low-income. The program would be administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and claimed on Maine tax returns.

The same bill will improve the "small deal" tax credit for smaller commercial projects by increasing the credit to 30% (and up to 45% for affordable housing) and by raising the ceiling of eligible expenses from \$250K to \$1M. Maine's Office of Program Evaluation & Government Accountability (OPEGA) singled the program out for improvements. The small-deal credit is for your typical Main Street-style building and has been virtually unused for 15 years because of how it was structured. We want to put it to work!

We face a housing crisis in Maine. We need every tool in the toolbelt to help turn this around. This is a particularly good & proven tool.

Thank you,
Cary Tyson
Westbrook, ME