

Mickel Zuidhoek
77 Blanchard Rd
Cumberland ME 04021

In Support of LD 1810.

To the taxation committee of the Maine State Legislature,

I am writing to advocate for LD 1810 as a Historic Preservation Professional and as a passionate member of the public who values what these buildings represent for the larger community. As a carpenter who spent my initial apprenticeship years in the Netherlands, I worked on several historic building projects specifically in and around Amsterdam. Having seen firsthand how such preservation projects are managed both at the local and national level I can say that it is a major influence on both the local and national culture.

From the community standpoint the restoration and upkeep of these buildings is important to connect the town/city to its past while also building for the future. It is a reminder of the craftsmanship that has developed over centuries. This craftsmanship forms the basis of our building industry today and needs nurturing so that Maines historic preservation culture continues to thrive.

The main benefit I see from this tax credit is the opportunity for more people to actively partake in the preservation of our history. While government and local bodies play the primary role in preserving our historical buildings those who own such a home also have a responsibility to make sure that the individual buildings' heritage remains strong. I am currently in conversation with Greater Portland Landmarks to facilitate a program for homeowners of historical properties to become involved in a

more practical manner with their own restoration work. Education is a vital part of preserving our historic homes and the more people are involved with their homes the more empowered they become in advocating for the continued preservation of our historical building stock.

The more equity we can give historical homeowners the more sustainable the movement becomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to advocate for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mickel Zuidhoek