

South Berwick Water District
80 Berwick Road
South Berwick, ME

May 17, 2023

Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair
Rep. Melanie Sachs, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs
Maine State Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: ***Letter of Support of the Governor's Change Package Part MMMM funding for water and wastewater infrastructure investments***

Dear Sen. Rotundo, Rep. Sachs, and Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee:

The South Berwick Water District appreciates the opportunity to provide the following testimony in strong support of Part MMMM of the Governor's Change Package for LD 258 which proposes to fund critical investments in drinking water system investments throughout our State.

Governor Mills has submitted a "change package," which provides more than \$16 million over the biennium for water infrastructure investment. These funds will provide the necessary state match to secure federal funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency used for the replacement of aging water infrastructure around the State.

These funds go to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as part of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The DWSRF provides funding for public water system infrastructure improvements.

South Berwick Water has been fortunate to be the recipient of numerous SRF loans that have had a great impact on upgrading our infrastructure.

The DWSRF has been amazingly successful with more than \$350 million invested in water systems across the State of Maine in the past 25 years. Congress has recently increased infrastructure funding available to states through the DWSRF. Therefore, the state match needs have increased.

We strongly urge the Committee to support Part MMMM of the Change Package so Maine can continue to provide the state match necessary to secure five times more in federal funds to support water infrastructure investments.

Regards
John Leach
Superintendent
South Berwick Water District

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Senator David LaFountain
Amy Stabins, KWD Board President