

44 Smith Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096

May 17, 2023

Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Melanie Sachs, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-100

RE: Support of the Governor's Budget Change Package, Part MMMM, funding for water and wastewater infrastructure

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee:

I retired two years ago after a 36 year career with the Yarmouth Water District. During my tenure at the District I had the honor of serving multiple terms on the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission. As a commissioner I worked closely with the Drinking Water Program on many challenging issues. One issue that we repeatedly had to deal with was obtaining the necessary State funding match needed to leverage the Federal funding for water infrastructure projects, via the State Revolving Loan Program (SRF Program). I found it troublesome that so much of the Drinking Water Programs effort and time was spent on obtaining the needed funding, especially when there were so many other important issues to be working on. We were finally able to secure the match for multiple years, allowing utilities from all over the State to replace and improve their system's infrastructure. I can tell you from my personal experience that the SRF Program enabled us to do major infrastructure replacement projects that we have been unable to do otherwise. I would urge the Committee to adopt Part MMMM of the budget change package to provide the matching funding. This investment in the future will help utilities provide safe, affordable water for future generations to come.

Sincerely,

Robert MacKinnon Jr.

Retired Superintendent, Yarmouth Water District

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