



# TOWN OF POLAND

1231 Maine Street  
Poland, ME 04274  
[www.polandtownoffice.org](http://www.polandtownoffice.org)  
(207) 998-4601



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February 2, 2024

Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
5 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Committee,

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, my name is Matthew Garside, and I am the Town Manager of Poland. I write this letter as my testimony in favor of LD 646.

Poland relies on property taxes to fund our municipal government. While other revenues help, it is the property tax where we get the majority of our funding. Poland has approximately \$105K owed under the property tax stabilization scheme. Receiving only 56% of this amount would adversely influence our municipal finances.

Since we have already started our fiscal year and passed our municipal budget, there is no way to make up this shortfall in revenue. While the revenue shortfall may seem small and insignificant when contrasted against larger budgets – such as the State budget, it is a large amount for Poland. T

When implementing this program we committed significant municipal resources to it. Educating the public, receiving applications and verifying eligibility, and calculating the property tax difference were a significant strain for us. Still, we moved forward under the assurance, from Maine State Revenue, that the entirety of the property tax that was stabilized would be reimbursed by the State.

I encourage your committee, the legislature, and the Governor, to honor the commitment made to the citizens of all municipalities and approve LD 646.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matthew Garside  
Poland Town Manager

