

Natalie Andrews  
West Paris  
LD 646

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs:

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 646, “An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program.” This legislation is crucial for ensuring that municipalities receive the necessary funding to cover revenue losses resulting from the property tax stabilization program.

As you are aware, certain municipalities have faced financial challenges due to underfunding of the property tax stabilization program established pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 751. Despite their best efforts, these municipalities have not been fully reimbursed for lost revenue, which has had a significant impact on their budgets. This is also during a time when several municipalities have additional unanticipated expenses due to infrastructural damage caused by the December storms.

The proposed amendment to LD 646 seeks to address this issue by allocating \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, specifically for the Property Tax Stabilization program, effective upon the Governor’s signature. This allocation will fully reimburse municipalities for revenue lost during the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023.

I urge you to support LD 646 and ensure that Maine’s municipalities receive the necessary funding to maintain essential services and support their communities. By acting swiftly, we can prevent unintended consequences faced by municipalities that were not prepared for partial reimbursement.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust that you will consider the well-being of our municipalities and the residents they serve.

Natalie Andrews  
Certified Maine Assessor