



# *Town of Jay*

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## **Testimony in Support of LD 646** ***An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the*** ***Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program***

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs:

Hello, my name is Shiloh LaFreniere, and I am the Town Manager of Jay. I apologize that I'm unable to be there to speak to you in person. However, please accept my testimony in support of LD 646 and know that this is a very important matter for all of the municipalities statewide.

I'm sure that you are all excruciatingly aware of the challenges that the Property Tax Stabilization program caused for our municipalities, not the least of which is the most recent news that there are not enough funds available to reimburse our communities as intended. Each municipality will likely be able to give very vivid examples of how this impacts their operations and citizens. In Jay it is no different. As many of you know, our town has experienced many challenges over the past few years including the closure of the Androscoggin Paper Mill in 2023 followed by a devastating storm in June that caused incredible damage to our roads and infrastructure. As our community is still struggling with these impacts, the loss in anticipated revenue from the Property Tax Stabilization program is causing additional strain on municipal budgets.

As this program was originally put in place by the Legislature, we appreciate the proactive approach in proposing legislation to ensure that the funds promised under this program will be delivered. I strongly encourage you to support LD 646, including the emergency clause, and approve the transfer of \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus to the Property Tax Stabilization program so that our municipalities can be fully reimbursed for the lost revenue that was promised.