



**Town of Lubec**  
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February 9, 2024

To: Appropriations and Finance Affairs Committee

Lubec is a small fishing town, in Washington county, on the east coast of Maine. A significant majority of year-round residents are elderly, retirees, or on fixed incomes. We recently went through a town-wide revaluation which raised many of the property owners tax bills. The tax stabilization program helped some of our resident's "freeze" their 2023 tax bills. **Raising taxes is something our residents cannot afford again.**

The stabilization program was a good idea that was implemented rather quickly. In my humble opinion, the program may have worked better if there were some limitations included. We have found that not every senior citizen needed tax assistance. Planning, research, and applications prior to implementing the program would have given the state a picture of the necessary fundings and possibly help fill in monetary gaps for those most at risk.

There is no shortage of communities that are already struggling with budget cuts and increasing costs of living. Please pass LD 646, now titled *An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program*, as amended. Without the full stabilization revenue refunded, towns will have to figure out ways to make up for the lost revenue. This will end up hurting our citizens that this program was aimed at helping. In short, Municipalities should not have to cover the States exemption short falls.

Thank you,

Suzette Francis  
Town Administrator  
Town of Lubec