

TOWN OF DALLAS PLANTATION

February 09, 2024

Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

RE: LD 646, "An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program."

Dear Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,


On behalf of the residents of Dallas Plantation, the Board of Assessors testify that we are unanimously in favor of the proposed amendment to LD 646; "An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program" by amending the bill with the following, "An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program."

The Property Tax Stabilization Program was initially met with great enthusiasm from our year-round residents who have seen a substantial increase in goods and services over the last few years. Residents who qualified for the program were excited by the prospect of the financial security they felt knowing their property tax bill was set at a fixed rate.

We quickly learned this program would not continue in future years. Unfortunately, with this knowledge the software company we use for property taxes failed to act swiftly in pivoting their software to meet the needs of our office to adequately execute the Tax Stabilization Program. When committing the 2023 taxes our Tax Collector worked tirelessly to resolve the countless questions posed considering the program. This effort added weeks of additional work to her schedule. Additionally, the revenue reimbursement greatly impacts our budget that was based on a projection of 100% as originally intended.

In consideration of the above stated events, we believe it is in the best interest of our community and all other communities that the Committee votes in favor of passing the amendment to commit to reimburse Municipalities at 100%.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is greatly appreciated.


Linda Jones, First Assessor
Dallas Plantation

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