

**Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

**Testimony of Behalf of the Town of Madison in Support of  
LD 646 - An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations  
for the Operations of State Government**

**February 13, 2024**

Chairman Senator Rotundo, Chairman Representative Sachs, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, we are providing written testimony in favor of LD 646. Municipalities across the State of Maine are feeling the pinch of the loss from property tax revenue as a result of the Tax Stabilization program for seniors who own property in our jurisdictions. Madison is no different. While our numbers may seem insignificant to some, our small community relies on every dollar to maintain our balanced budget. The 44% of the State's promised reimbursement that has not yet been received (\$29,947.43) helps to fund many of our local programs, including senior citizen and recreational events, as well as contributing to day-to-day operations of municipal government.

The people of Madison would sincerely appreciate the Committee's voting "Ought to Pass" on LD 646 as an emergency bill and not as an amendment or addendum to the Supplemental Budget. These funds need to reach our municipalities before the end of our fiscal years.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Denise Ducharme*

Denise Ducharme, Madison Town Manager

*Shirley Bartlett*

Shirley Bartlett, Madison Assessing Agent