

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002 (207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

February 13, 2024

## Testimony of Rep. Bruce White introducing LD 2191, An Act to Provide Relief to Small Business Affected by Severe Weather-related Events

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and honorable members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Bruce White. I represent House District 65, part of Waterville. I am here to speak in support of LD 2191, An Act to Provide Relief to Small Businesses Affected by Severe Weather-related Events as sponsored by Sen. Hickman.

Shortly after the recent storms back in December I reached out to some of the local businesses in Waterville, to find out how they were impacted. I heard how many lost thousands of dollars in products as well as lost income due to not being able to open for several days while they either waited for power or for supplies to be replenished.

I fully support LD 2191, which will provide emergency funding to the businesses most impacted by the major storm events. Our work in the IDEA committee has shown time and time again how vital small businesses are not only for economic mobility but for community spirit as well. The severe weather patterns our state is experiencing are increasing; in turn, we must bolster our funding for small businesses that support our local economies so that they, too, can weather the storm.

Sincerely,

Representative Bruce White