

City of Portland | City Council

Mark Dion, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: City of Portland Mayor Mark Dion

Date: 2/28/2024

Re: LD 2214 (Part EE)

**Testimony in Support of LD 2214, Part EE
(Transfer of \$5 million from General Fund unappropriated surplus to GOPIF -
Community Resilience Partnership)**

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

I write to you in support of Governor Mills' request for \$5 million to support the Community Resilience Partnership that is included in the supplemental budget attached to LD 2214, Part EE. The Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) provides funding for grants and technical assistance to Maine municipalities and tribes for climate action planning, adaptation and resilience projects, as well as emissions reduction initiatives. As a municipality that has been enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership since 2022, the City of Portland recognizes the pressing need for continuing and expanding the Partnership's funding opportunities. With nearly 500 municipalities and Tribal governments in Maine, the array of climate impacts are numerous and diverse across the state. The Partnership allows each community to set their own resiliency needs based on their specific vulnerabilities and priorities. In Portland, CRP grants have funded important actions called for in our climate action plan, One Climate Future. These include development of climate resilience overlay zones and funding Electrify Everything!, a program to help residents and businesses adopt heat pumps and other energy efficient appliances. CRP grant funds also helped us launch our Sustainable Neighborhoods program that promotes neighborhood scale actions that advance climate action while building social connections that will make our city more resilient in the face of climate change .

Municipalities across the State of Maine have used CRP grants to proactively reduce their climate risk and build resilience. The importance of this work is underscored by the devastating impact of the storms Maine experienced on January 10 and 13 earlier this year. We urge the Committee to support the Governor's request so the Community Resilience Partnership can continue the great work they have started.

Thank you for your consideration.