

**Town of Blue Hill      Town of Brooksville      Town of Surry**

February 26, 2024

Senator Peggy Rotondo, Senate Chair  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

Representative Melanie Sachs, House Chair  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

Subject: Support for adding \$5 million to Community Resilience Partnership's grant programs

Dear Senator Rotondo and Representative Sachs:

The Towns of Blue Hill, Brooksville and Surry welcome the opportunity to support the Governor's supplemental budget proposal for a one-time addition of \$5 million to the Community Resilience Partnership's grant programs in light of the extreme storms and flooding in December and January. This addition would be on top of the Community Resilience Partnership's \$3 million annual budget for grants.

Each of our towns enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership in 2022 and proceeded to benefit from the program. After enrolling, the Town of Blue Hill and Town of Brooksville jointly applied for and received a \$125,000 Community Action Grant from the Community Resilience Partnership to conduct a joint climate vulnerability assessment. The Town of Surry, another enrollee, simultaneously applied for and received a \$50,000 Community Action Grant from the Community Resilience Partnership to assess climate vulnerability.

Our three towns pooled our funding and contracted with GEI Consulting and its subcontractor, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, to conduct that assessment. That work is under way with a December 31, 2024 completion deadline.

State funding leveraged additional funding: the Town of Brooksville added \$10,000 to the State's \$175,000 so that the Gulf of Maine Research Institute could expand the coastal flood community science component of the project -- helping community members monitor and record flooding. To provide that funding, Brooksville used \$10,000 that it had received from the Island Institute to address sea level rise.

Our three-town project exemplifies the value of funding from Maine's Community Resilience Partnership -- funding that addresses climate change across municipal borders with additional philanthropic support.

We hasten to add that our project has taken on added urgency, importance and value as a result of devastating storms during the past two months. We recognize the pressing need for continuing and expanding the Community Resilience Partnership's funding opportunities and encourage the Legislature to support the addition of \$5 million to the Community Resilience Partnership's grant programs.

Signature page follows.

**Town of Blue Hill**

**Town of Brooksville**

**Town of Surry**

**For the Town of Blue Hill**



Ellen Best, Chair, Select Board



Sean Dooley, Select Board member



James Dow, Select Board member



Scott Miller, Select Board member

**For the Town of Brooksville**



John Gray, Chair, Select Board



Richard Bakeman, Selectman



Horace Snow, Selectman

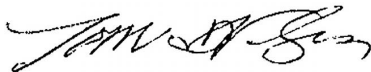
**For the Town of Surry**



Mary Allen, Chair, Select Board



Chris Stark, Selectman



Tom Welgoss, Selectman