



Dear Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee,

My name is Mary Alice Scott, and I am the Public Affairs Manager at the Maine Association of Nonprofits. MANP is a growing membership organization made up of over 1,000 nonprofit members from all 16 counties. Since 1994, MANP has grown to become Maine's comprehensive resource for the tools, knowledge, and connections nonprofits need to be effective and well-run.

I am here today **in support of LD 2191**, and to ask that the phrasing be altered just slightly, **to add the phrase "and nonprofits"** so that small for profit and nonprofit organizations can both benefit.

Nonprofits maintain and promote the public good throughout our state. We provide many essential, high-impact and community-based services. Through this work, nonprofits support government efforts to more effectively and efficiently support Maine people, thereby reducing the burden on the state's taxpayers.

Nonprofits are also vital to Maine's economy. In fact, we employ 1 in 6 Maine workers. However, much of our work is done through the mobilization of more than 400,000 volunteers each year. A necessity, since most Maine nonprofits are very small, lean, and community-based: 88% have annual budgets less than \$500,000 and 61% have annual budgets under \$50,000. Every dollar makes a difference for these organizations.

Sometimes when nonprofits are not explicitly added to relief programs like this one, they are unintentionally shut out. In 2020, we worked with our partners at the National Council of Nonprofits to advocate for "and nonprofits" be added to the Paycheck Protection Program, which resulted in thousands of jobs being saved in Maine. When the Economic Injury Disaster Loans opened up, the first question was "name of owner." But nonprofits do not have an owner, and were immediately stymied.

Nonprofits may have been impacted by the recent flooding either because of direct damage to their buildings and facilities, or because they had to cancel programs and services. Nonprofits who serve communities impacted by the floods would have had increased requests for services, as well. Some organizations that canceled programs may receive reduced reimbursement rates, others may have offered refunds to patrons.

It is my understanding that in the January flooding, for example, that the Fire Department on Deer Isle was impacted. That Fire Department is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.



Nonprofit art galleries, museums, and performing arts venues are all cultural centers as well as economic drivers, alongside their for-profit counterparts.

Just like for-profit businesses, nonprofits across the state would have a wide range when it comes to the scope of impact from the floods, and I trust that the rulemaking process would ensure that organizations would need to demonstrate impact in order to receive benefits. We just ask that nonprofits be explicitly added so that they may access available funds that they may qualify for.

In case it is helpful to note, the BEGAP program in Vermont does use the language “businesses and nonprofits.”

We urge **support of LD 2191, along with the addition of the phrase “and nonprofits”**
Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.