

March 6, 2024

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Support for LD 2225, *An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events*

Dear Sen. Rotundo, Rep. Sachs, and members of the Appropriations Committee;

Please accept this letter as the testimony of the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) in support LD 2225, *An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events* which provides \$50,000,000 for municipal, state or regionally significant infrastructure adaptation, repair, and improvements that support public safety, protection of essential community assets, regional economic needs, and long-term infrastructure resiliency.

GPCOG serves 25 municipal members in Cumberland County, from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay, as well as Saco, Biddeford, Arundel, and Old Orchard Beach through the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS). We deliver transportation, land use, sustainability, and economic development services to our members and their communities.

GPCOG strongly supports LD 2225 because the climate crisis is moving fast, and it is happening now. This winter's historic storms have produced widespread damage to significant infrastructure and essential community assets throughout our region, and the State. The additional funding provided by this legislation will not only support faster, smarter, and more complete recovery from that damage, it will also increase our resilience in the face of future weather emergencies.

Please vote to support LD 2225 so that community and regional resilience can be strengthened, and recovery from this winter's storms can be accelerated in our region and across Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to share GPCOG's full support of LD 2225 and please let me know if I can provide anything more to advance your work on this important bill.

Sincerely,



Chris Hall  
Director of Regional Initiatives  
Greater Portland Council of Governments