

March 6, 2024

Senator Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Sachs, House Chair
Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs
c/o Legislature Information Office
100 State house Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: L.D. 2225: An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to ask for your support of *L.D. 2225: An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events*.

Funding to adapt to climate change is a major need that the Gulf of Maine Research Institute hears in our work with commercial fishing and aquaculture businesses. L.D. 2225's \$50 million in funding would be transformative for Maine's working wharves to improve infrastructure susceptible to sea-level rise and severe weather events. Strong coastal storms in 2022, 2023, and 2024 have proven that our working waterfront must prepare facilities and operations for continued events such as a 14-foot tide.

Funding from L.D. 2225 would allow businesses and communities to repair damage and make improvements that will strengthen the marine economy and workforce in line with the *Maine Won't Wait* plan. Addressing the needs of both inland and coastal communities, as L.D.2225 would do, is important to address the full range of climate impacts to critical working infrastructure.

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute's interdisciplinary programs are ready to collaborate with Maine's coastal communities to find solutions to these ocean challenges.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Labaree
Chief Community Officer