

# **MAINE SERVICE CENTERS COALITION**

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## **Testimony of the Maine Service Centers Coalition LD 210, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027**

Senator Rotundo and Representative Gattine, Senator Grohoski and Representative Cloutier, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Taxation, the Maine Service Centers Coalition is submitting testimony in support of fully funding municipal revenue sharing at the 5 percent level as proposed in LD 210 and as required by law.

The Maine Service Centers Coalition, comprised of 26 towns and cities across the state, articulates the importance of healthy and thriving service center communities, advocates for public policy that supports and contributes to the economic and social viability of our communities, and collaborates with municipal officials, legislators, state agencies and non-profits to pursue quality of life for all who live and work in our state.

Maintaining municipal revenue sharing at 5 percent is vitally important to all Maine municipalities. That's especially so for our service center communities. Like all municipalities, we strive to ensure our citizens have access to the services they need. And, as service centers, we are home to a multitude of programs, facilities and amenities that strengthen the wellbeing and vitality of our neighboring towns as well as our state.

You know all too well these past several years have seen more and more financial responsibilities placed on our state and municipal governments. For many of us, this resulted in escalating property taxes for our homeowners and businesses.

We respectfully ask you to support the initiative in LD 210 to fund municipal revenue sharing at 5 percent. Your support in maintaining full funding will help lessen the financial pressures so many of us face. It will provide us with a much needed foundation on which to build our budgets, and it will offer relief to our already burdened property taxpayers.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please reach out to us if you would like additional information.