



February 5, 2025

Dear Senator Margaret Rotundo, Chair Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,  
Representative Drew Gatine, Chair Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

I am writing on behalf of Heart of Ellsworth, Maine's newest designated Main Street America community, to express our strong support for the continued funding of the Maine Downtown Center (MDC) and urge the allocation of at least \$25,000 to support its essential work.

Since 2016, Heart of Ellsworth has been dedicated to fostering economic vitality, historic preservation, and community engagement in Downtown Ellsworth, using the proven Main Street Four-Point Approach—Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization. When we launched Heart of Ellsworth, downtown Ellsworth was 50% vacant. Over the past nine years, our work has played a crucial role in revitalizing Ellsworth's historic downtown, making it a vibrant hub for businesses, residents, and visitors alike.

The MDC has been an invaluable resource in our journey, providing training, leadership, and technical support that have strengthened our ability to implement impactful projects. From small business support initiatives to public art programs and historic preservation efforts, our organization has leveraged the MDC's expertise to bring meaningful change to our community.

Ellsworth is one of Maine's fastest-growing service centers, and a thriving downtown is essential to the region's economy. Thanks to the guidance of the MDC and the dedication of our local community, we have seen new businesses open, historic buildings repurposed, and increased downtown engagement. But sustaining this momentum requires continued investment in programs like the MDC, which empower local communities to drive economic growth.

With your support, the MDC can continue its mission to advance preservation-based economic development across Maine, ensuring that communities like Ellsworth—and many others—have the tools needed to grow and prosper.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your commitment to Maine's downtowns and look forward to seeing the positive impact that continued funding for the Maine Downtown Center will bring to our state.

Sincerely,

Cara Romano

P.O. Box 954  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
(207) 479 5011

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