

Taxation Committee testimony
Public Hearing on LD 283
February 25,2025

Chairpersons Grohoski and Cloutier, and honorable members of the Taxation Committee. My name is Kerry Leichtman. I am the assessor for the Towns of Camden and Rockport.

I am testifying in support of LD283, "An Act to Expand Local Revenues by Including Meals and Lodging Sales Tax Revenue Under the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program," as presented by Representative Hepler and co-sponsored by Senator Tepler and Representative Bunker.

This bill would allow cities and towns to realize a modest financial benefit from the commerce that takes place in their municipalities. One percent is not a big or unreasonable ask. Rather, it is a fair and just proposition. Our focus – yours, mine and that of every government entity in the state – should be laser focused on providing property tax relief. These shared revenues would take some pressure off the mil rates.

We need to take advantage of every tool in the arsenal: finding new sources of revenue, eliminating non-productive programs, tightening budgetary belts. While 1% is not a large number, it is a piece of the property tax relief puzzle that when added to other puzzle pieces can become significant.

I urge you to send this bill to the Legislature with an Ought to Pass designation.

Thank you.

Kerry Leichtman