

Martina Witts  
Naples  
LD 283

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Taxation Committee. I am writing 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.

I live in Naples, Maine and for five years served as an elected member to the Naples Budget Committee. Naples, like many small towns finds itself with a revenue problem, not a spending problem. Each year we find ourselves in a situation where in order to maintain the same level of services, the only way to fund them is through placing additional property tax burdens on our citizens. Naples is largely a tourist destination and our seasonal restaurants and lodging establishments are our primary business base. Passing LD 283 would provide us with a source of revenue that would not require an additional tax burden on anyone – not the residents, not the business owners, and not the tourists. It would equitably redistribute a small percentage of the revenue that the state collects back to the communities where it was generated.

In our small town, this revenue increase would help us meet the financial demands that tourists place on our infrastructure and public safety budget items, and prevent us from having to pass the tax burden on to our older citizens and working families who are already burdened by their tax bills.

I respectfully ask you to vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 283.

Sincerely,

Martina Witts  
Naples, ME