

Testimony in Opposition to
LD 288 An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Tax Laws
March 5, 2025

Chairpersons Senator Grohoski and Representative Cloutier and honorable members of the Taxation Committee:

My name is Kerry Leichtman. I am a Certified Maine Assessor serving the jurisdictions of Camden and Rockport and am writing you today in opposition to LD 288.

LD 288 suggests four changes to Maine's tax laws, two of which I can support (numbers 2 & 3), one that I don't understand (number 4) and one that I strongly oppose (number 1).

I'll confine my comment to Change #1: "requiring fulltime property assessors to be certified by Maine Revenue Services as having "the basic knowledge required to perform the assessing function" rather than certified as "professionally trained assessors."

I am not sure how MRS can "certify" that fulltime property assessors have "the basic knowledge required to perform the assessing function" without certifying them as professionally trained assessors. The verbal gymnastics of that sentence leaves much to interpretation.

My interpretation of it is that the standards assessors are held to are to be reduced. This job gets more difficult and complex each year. I get it that there is currently a shortage of assessors but lessening the standards is not how to deal with it a very complicated job.

I am the full-time assessor for two towns. I could not do this without excellent assistance in both towns. I think Camden and Rockport are well served by this arrangement, and I think it is a better way to deal with the assessor shortage than lowering the standards. I'm sorry I cannot be at the hearing today to discuss this with you as I have an all day obligation that I cannot reschedule.

Should you decide to schedule a work session on this bill, I'd be pleased to participate should you desire it.

Thank you for considering these comments.