

Members of the Committee on Taxation,

I am writing to urge you to adopt LD 435. In my work as a preservation architect and as a member of the Biddeford Historic Preservation Commission I have seen how powerful Maine's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit is at helping to transform communities and provide much needed housing in our cities and towns.

Here in Biddeford historic tax credits have helped to fund over 600 new housing units in our downtown, principally in our former mill buildings. The reuse of our historic mills for housing, hotels, restaurants, and other new businesses has breathed new life into our downtown attracting more residents and businesses to our community.

In addition, the historic tax credit helps to achieve our local and state climate goals. By reusing our existing buildings, especially those in our downtown areas where shopping and entertainment options as well as public transit are already available, we reduce vehicle miles driven, a key goal in Maine's Climate Action Plan. And we keep building demolition materials out of our landfills!

Please adopt LD435 to:

- Make Maine's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program permanent.
- To better facilitate the reuse of larger buildings like Biddeford's mill buildings, especially for housing.
- Fix the credit so that it works for smaller commercial buildings in Maine's villages, towns, and cities.
- Create a homeowner tax credit.

Thank you for considering my views as you deliberate this proposed legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julie Larry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" and last name "Larry" clearly distinguishable.

Julie Larry

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