

Michael and Patricia Skaling
16 Mountain Arrow Drive
Camden, Maine 04843
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March 2, 2025

Committee on Taxation
Maine State Legislature

Dear Members of the Committee on Taxation,

We are writing to express our strong support for Legislative Document No. 435, *An Act to Expand the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit*. This legislation is crucial for the preservation and enhancement of Maine's historic properties, and I urge you to adopt it for the benefit of our communities.

Maine's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program has already proven to be a tremendous success, and LD 435 promises to build on this success by making the program permanent. This will provide property owners with the necessary support for ongoing stewardship, weatherization, and housing opportunities across the state.

In Camden, we are proud of our historic homes and neighborhoods, many of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places or recognized locally as Camden Historic Landmarks. By expanding the tax credit to include a homeowner tax credit, LD 435 will empower homeowners to maintain their properties' essential historic qualities. This support is vital for allowing homeowners to stay in their homes and undertake important exterior renovations.

Furthermore, this type of support will help prevent the sale of historic properties to individuals who might demolish them and replace them with structures that do not fit the character of our historic neighborhoods. We have witnessed several recent examples of such unfortunate developments, which underscore the need for protective measures like those proposed in LD 435.

Additionally, Camden voters recently demonstrated their commitment to historic preservation by voting overwhelmingly in favor of creating a Historic Preservation Ordinance. This ordinance is currently under development and will be presented to Camden voters in November 2025. The benefits of LD 435 will significantly aid Camden and other Maine communities in protecting our valued historic resources.

We strongly believe that the adoption of LD 435 will lead to incredible economic benefits from rehabilitation projects and align with the pointed recommendations of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability. We urge you to support this legislation and help preserve the rich history and character of Maine's communities.

Thank you for considering our testimony. We are hopeful that you will recognize the importance of this legislation and vote in favor of LD 435.

Sincerely,

Michael and Patricia Skaling

Michael Skaling
Camden, Maine
LD 435

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