



**OFFICE of the CITY MANAGER**

Marc Meyers

City Manager

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**Testimony in support of LD 745, An Act to Allow a Municipality to Sell Tax-acquired Property in Any Manner Authorized by the Municipality's Legislative Body (March 12, 2025)**

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Marc Meyers and I am City Manager for the City of Bath, located in Sagadahoc County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for your consideration.

I appreciate the legislature's desire to protect property owners and allow those property owners to receive return of sale proceeds, but I believe recent changes to process for disposition of tax-acquired properties have diminished home rule and aren't framed in the realities of tax-acquired properties. Often, once a property has been foreclosed, that property's condition is dilapidated. Best case scenario is rehabilitation. Worst case scenario is demolition.

In the past six years, Bath has sold four tax-acquired properties. These properties had all been foreclosed for more than five years and sold through an open bid process. None of these properties sold for more than the property taxes that were owed. One was demolished. These sales took place prior to the recent legislation requiring a real estate agent or the City would have taken a greater loss on these transactions.

My hope is that Bath can recoup the property taxes owed for tax-acquired properties. LD 745 will allow the Bath City Council to decide the best way to sell these properties and provide much needed housing units and return these properties to the tax rolls.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of LD 745, *An Act to Allow a Municipality to Sell Tax-acquired Property in Any Manner Authorized by the Municipality's Legislative Body*.