

MAINE SERVICE CENTERS COALITION

60 Community Drive • Augusta, Maine 04330 • (207) 623-8428

Testimony of the Maine Service Centers Coalition LD 745, An Act to Allow a Municipality to Sell Tax-acquired Property in Any Manner Authorized by the Municipality's Legislative Body

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, the Maine Service Centers Coalition is submitting 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.

The Maine Service Centers Coalition, comprised of 26 towns and cities across the state, articulates the importance of healthy and thriving service center communities, advocates for public policy that supports and contributes to the economic and social viability of our communities, and collaborates with municipal officials, legislators, state agencies and nonprofits to pursue quality of life for all who live and work in our state.

Maine has long recognized that local issues are best decided at the level of government closest to its citizens. LD 745 provides an example of just such a local issue. It would give municipalities the authority to determine the most appropriate way to sell tax-acquired properties.

Local control is a fundamental principle of Maine government and must be preserved. As service center communities, our cities and towns share many of the same concerns and issues. At the same time, we recognize each of our municipalities is unique – what works in one may not work in another. LD 745 allows us to decide the most suitable sales options available for our respective communities and our property owners.

We respectfully ask you to support LD 745.

Thank you for your time.