

LD 832

An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce the Debt of the Vassalboro Sanitary District

Dear Committee Chairs Sen. Mark Lawrence, Rep. Melanie Sachs, and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology

We are James and Elaine LaChance of Vassalboro, ME. James is lifelong resident of Vassalboro, and we have lived and raised our family here for over 40 years. One of our properties is currently connected to the sanitary system. As you know, there is a fixed fee for being connected, in addition to the fee for water usage. There are approximately 200 properties in Vassalboro that were required to connect to the system, such that the cost is already prohibitive for the relatively few users in our town. Our sewer fees are expected to increase significantly in the near future.

The original cost of the system infrastructure was supposed to be defrayed through grants. However, some of the grant money was redistributed to areas in southern Maine. It is our understanding that the proposed one time funding of \$2,000,000 would be used for paying down the principal, which would lower the overall burden to all users. Most of the people on the sanitary system are retired and on a fixed incomes. These families are struggling to stay in their homes because of these onerous costs. Losing residents due to leaving the area hurts the town and our community.

Please consider approving these funds to help our residents afford to stay in their homes, by approving LD 832. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James and Elaine LaChance
Vassalboro, Maine