

Testimony in Opposition of

LD 658: An Act to Lower Property Taxes by Increasing the Homestead Property Tax Exemption
March 19, 2025

Chairpersons Senator Grohoski and Representative Cloutier and honorable members of the Taxation Committee:

My name is Kerry Leichtman. I am a Certified Maine Assessor serving the jurisdictions of Camden and Rockport and am writing you today in opposition to LD 658.

While it is my hope that the 132nd Legislature will approve an increase of some kind to the Homestead Exemption, this bill requires the increase to be as of April 1, 2025. By the time this bill would become law most municipalities in Maine will have already committed taxes for the 2025/26 tax year. The implications of this are difficult to imagine. I suppose we'd have to recommit, somehow recall tax bills sent, and print and mail new tax bills.

Again, yes please increase the Homestead but do so in a manner that provides benefits to taxpayers, not that causes additional expense and confusion, not to mention the havoc this would cause in assessing offices throughout the state.

Thank you for considering my testimony.