

Testimony in Support of

LD 140: An Act to Incrementally Increase 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 support of LD 140.

What I like most about LD 140 is that it provides property tax relief for all taxpaying residents equally. It doesn't single out any group – not by age or income – for preferential treatment. I fear a Homestead Exemption of \$95,000 might be unaffordable, but that is for you to decide.

I do want to put this in context of property tax relief programs; we have tax relief programs for businesses – BETE and BETR – that eliminate taxation most if not all property taxes for many businesses. When considering eligibility for either program we do not take into account how big or small the business is, how old the business is, not even if the ownership is Maine based. It's time the taxpaying residents of Maine were treated as magnanimously.

Thank you for considering my testimony.