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To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

March 19, 2025

To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation Re:

L.D. 7, “An Act to Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Residents 65 Years of Age or Older,” and L.D. 934, “An Act to Provide 100 Percent of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Amount to Seniors and Veterans.”

Sen. Grohoski, Rep. Cloutier, and members of the Taxation Committee, I support the two above mentioned bills before you today at 10:45 A.M. in the consolidated public hearing.

Below is my testimony on March 5th on L.D. 715, “An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief by Increasing the Availability of the Property Tax Fairness Credit Based on a Resident's Age and Income,” which is applicable to the bills before you today. For the same reasons, I’m resubmitting my testimony again and ask you to please vote L.D.s 7 and 934 “ought to pass.”

March 5, 2025

Sen. Grohoski, Rep. Cloutier, and members of the Taxation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before you today. I’m Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of the Town of Belgrade, Maine.

I support L.D. 715, “An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief by Increasing the Availability of the Property Tax Fairness Credit Based on a Resident's Age and Income”.

The percentage of a property tax bill in Belgrade for schools is 72%. Is that fair for residents who have lived here all their life, paid for their own kids’ education, and kept the budget within reason? Is it fair with the extravagance spent on education, not reading, writing, and arithmetic? But brainwashing, DEI, BLM, Transgenderism, and the list goes on. Kids go to school to be prepared for the outside world when they graduate, not to have the best of everything along the way at taxpayer expense.

Seniors need a break. We’ve paid for our kids’ college tuition and all that goes with it. We were not granted school loan forgiveness, nor would we expect to be. We haven’t had any of the tax credits so many receive for this exemption and that exemption. We have always paid and not begrudged doing so. Now it’s our turn. If taxpayers want the best of everything for their kids in school, then they should pay for it, not make seniors, nor take our homes in lieu of taxes to do so.

May God grant you wisdom as you deliberate on this serious matter.

I urge this committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 715. Thank you.