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Good morning Chairpersons Grohoski and Cloutier and members of the Taxation committee, and thank you for the opportunity to share testimony on this crucial issue.

It seems that at the end of every legislative session so much good work that's been done is undone on the Appropriations table. There's never enough funds to meet all the pressing, legitimate needs that enable Maine to be a good place to call home.

If folks have been fortunate enough to do well financially that is due at least in part to being in this state and country where we have laws for how business is done, and where we all share in the costs of public education, fire and safety and the infrastructure that makes commerce possible. Yes, they've worked hard and made smart investments and good for them. But many folks work hard, and through no fault of their own, struggle their whole lives to eke out a living.

The monies to address hunger, healthcare, workforce growth and development, infrastructure, climate change effects, housing shortages etc. etc. can't be levied on those who are barely getting by now. Bringing the capital gains tax more in line with the tax we levy on actual work is sensible, reasonable and fair.

We can't continue to ignore the critical needs of our population. To do so diminishes all of us and undermines all that we love about Maine. Those who have been blessed to benefit from our system need to pay what they can readily afford.