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April 7, 2024

To: The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Committee Members:

I am writing in empathic support of LD560, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Coastal Climate Resiliency. There is really no other way to state this other than that without this funding many of the State's beaches may not survive. We cannot put a timetable on this potential apocalypse as storm seasons fluctuate, but after 2024 some sandy shorelines are on the brink of disappearing.

There are three potential ways to attack the problem: mitigate, adapt, or do nothing. Doing nothing is clearly the most expensive option. Everyone loses. Adaptation can be effective but in many cases it becomes a race against time. You can maybe build higher or retreat if there is room, but eventually the rising tide will catch up. Mitigation allows us to fight the symptoms and take an offensive stance.

This bond will fund mitigation efforts that are desperately needed. As Vice President of the non-profit Save our Shore Saco Bay (SOS), we are currently working with the York County Emergency Management team to build engineered beaches designed to withstand 100-year storms. This will provide FEMA relief for sand and dune loss from any declared disaster and lessen damage from those that do not reach that qualification. This effort is difficult and expensive. Funding from this bond will go a long way to help make it a reality.

If we give up on beaches, we face the consequences of billions of dollars lost from Maine's biggest industry - tourism. This funding is well worth the return on investment. I, and the membership of SOS, urge you to lead the way to preserve, and enable growth, of our greatest natural resource.

Thank you

David Plavin
Vice President, Save Our Shores Saco Bay
Saco, Maine