

City of Saco

April 8, 2025

Subject:

LD 560 - An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Coastal Climate Resiliency

To Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

Southern Maine Sand Beaches and Dune Systems

\$3.9 Billion Economic Impact*

\$2.6 Billion Direct Spending*

3.8 Million Visitors*

Continuity is critical to ensuring that resiliency solutions implemented along the Southern Maine Coastline are effective. Irregular solutions based on disconnected efforts between Southern Maine municipalities risks the economic revenue stream that flows into Maine.

This trend is being directly addressed by the York County Maine Emergency Management Agency. An effort to ensure consistent monitoring and recovery of one of Maine's most significant natural resources: our southern beaches and dune systems.

York County EMA is attempting to implement resiliency continuity across all Southern Maine Municipalities. Funding for this program is at a critical juncture. They are establishing the requisite regulatory coastal baseline measurements to be compliant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Compliance enables all of the Southern Maine Coastal Communities access to substantial Federal Recovery Funds at levels never available previously. But, establishing this baseline and managing its compliance is both costly and time consuming.

This bond and its funding will ensure that all of the towns, townships and communities along the Southern Maine Coastline will have access to coordinated support and funding as we manage recovery from significant weather events.

Sincere regards,

Jeffrey S. Onnen

City of Saco

Vice Chairman Shoreline Commission

* Maine Beaches Association