

Mayor and Council Offices

Mark Dion

Mayor

April 9, 2025



Testimony of Mayor of the City of Portland, Mark Dion

Before

Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

In Support of

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

April 9, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I write on behalf of the City of Portland in strong support of LD 560, which proposes a \$75 million general fund bond issue to improve coastal climate resiliency and support the long-term sustainability of Maine's shoreline communities.

As a coastal city, Portland is acutely aware of the growing risks associated with sea level rise, increased storm surges, and changing weather patterns. These impacts pose significant threats to public infrastructure, housing, economic activity, and public safety in our working waterfront and surrounding neighborhoods. The scale of investment needed to prepare for these challenges far exceeds what individual municipalities can fund on their own.

LD 560 recognizes the urgent need for state-level support by establishing a grant program for municipal, county, tribal, and regional governments to undertake meaningful resilience planning and engineering upgrades. This funding would enable communities like Portland to reinforce critical infrastructure, adapt our waterfront assets, and proactively address vulnerabilities through both built and natural mitigation strategies.

These investments not only protect lives and property but also ensure that Maine's coastal economy, which contributes substantially to the state's GDP, remains strong and viable into the future. For cities like Portland, where the waterfront is a hub for commerce, tourism, marine trades, and transportation, climate resiliency is both an environmental and economic imperative.

We urge your support for LD 560 as an essential step in preparing Maine's communities for the impacts of climate change. A coordinated, well-funded approach will ensure that no municipality is left behind in meeting the urgent demands of coastal adaptation and risk reduction.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Dion", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mark Dion
Mayor
City of Portland, Maine