



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, I am Mathew McIntyre and I humbly serve as the Representative for Maine's House District 18, comprising 16 towns and four Unorganized Territories spanning portions of Penobscot, Hancock and Washington counties. Today I offer testimony in the interest of all taxpayers of Maine, and as a cosponsor of **LD1521**, "An Act to Require All State Agencies to Provide a Zero-based Budget Once Every 10 Years", as introduced by Representative Ducharme.

Per our Maine State Constitution, Article IX, Section 7 "Valuation", it is a foundational principle that *"While the public expenses shall be assessed on estates, a general valuation shall be taken at least once in 10 years"*. It is based primarily on what I believe to be the general spirit of this constitutional requirement, coupled with valuable lessons learned during my 21 years serving within the federal government domain that I respectfully request your serious consideration of the intent and true value of the proposal before you today.

I am not a macroeconomics scholar. I am not a Wall Street analyst. I am not an omnipotent oracle of fiscal matters. I am just a son whose mother, while she was alive, paid my salary and funded my missions in the US Navy and the US Secret Service, through her taxes. I never forgot this fact, especially after I graduated from journeyman mission operator roles, to positions of senior leadership wherein I was charged with overseeing and administering multi-million dollar programs. Fast forward to today, I have been elected to serve as a Representative for not just the taxpayers of District 18, but in fact for all the People of Maine, by my association with our larger legislative body. I do not take this new role lightly, and I pose to you that we, and I shall emphasize "we", are not being good stewards of the State finances because we have failed to subject our budget formulation methods to appropriate scrutiny. We have allowed ourselves to fall into the trap of taking the easy route. The model of "last budget plus X percent" is not only irresponsible, it is lazy. The People of Maine deserve better, and LD1521 presents us an opportunity to reset.

Today's discussion is not about partisan politics, it is not about pointing fingers, and frankly I am not at all interested in engaging vitriolic "blame game" smear or "gotya" tactics. Today we are talking about being honest with ourselves, and accepting it is time to modernize our budget formulation models, for the best interest of the people we serve. We must be honest brokers, and we must acknowledge that as we march forward, together, towards a stronger future, periodically we need to pause, to reset and to shed ourselves of burdens that result from the weak argument of "We've always done it this way".

House District 18

We can do better.

Thank you for your time today, and for allowing me to try to help build our better future.