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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of LD 836, *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings*

April 15, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Kate Dufour, and I am offering testimony in support of LD 836 on behalf of the 70 municipal leaders who were elected by their peers to serve on the Association's Legislative Policy Committee and directed to establish MMA's position on bills of municipal interest.

Municipal officials support LD 836, which if adopted by the voters will enable the investments necessary to upgrade municipal culverts. In addition to protecting the State's natural resources, an investment of this nature will provide the communities with the ability to replace aging infrastructure with appropriately sized culverts, thereby reinforcing local roads and abutting properties that are susceptible to heavy storm events.

Each year municipalities statewide spend roughly \$275 million to maintain and improve municipal roads and bridges. By offering matching grants, the program provides opportunities for municipalities to make more substantive improvements in local infrastructure, while simultaneously supporting the state/municipal partnership.

Thank you for considering the municipal perspective on this issue. If you have any questions about the Association's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at kdufour@memun.org or 1-800-452-8786.