

Testimony in Opposition to

LD 1603: An Act to Eliminate the Property Tax on Business Equipment With a Value of No More Than \$50,000

May 1, 2025

Chairpersons Senator Grohoski and Representative Cloutier and honorable members of the Taxation Committee:

My name is Kerry Leichtman. I am a Certified Maine Assessor serving the jurisdictions of Camden and Rockport. I am testifying today in opposition to LD 1603.

No one likes personal property, not business owners who have to file and pay them, not assessors who have to solicit businesses to properly report them and do copious paperwork to process them. Despite this I am testifying in opposition to LD 1603.

I can already feel the ill will and hear the arguments over property a business says is worth \$49,000 and the assessor says is worth \$51,000. Suddenly everything filed will be worth less than \$50,000. As it so happens, much of what is filed in my two towns is worth less than \$50,000. If LD 1603 were to pass we would lose substantial revenues which will then be left to the property tax payer to pick up. Anything that increases the tax burden on property tax payers ought not to pass.

Thank you for considering my testimony.