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Bar Harbor
LD 438

I am writing in opposition to LD 438 and LD 1795. Which would allow the state to eliminate tax exemptions for non-profits and to charge them service fees. Many, who make vital contributions to our communities, cannot afford the proposed changes.

I am writing from the perspective of someone who's spent her life working and volunteering in cultural institutions, and has reviewed grant proposals for the national Institute of Museum and Library Services. I am well aware of the financial needs of many types of institutions - and the diligence and creativity of staff in meeting them, most often on shoe string budgets. It is remarkable how much they do with so little. And now, with the Republican regime impounding congressionally appropriated funds, slashing budgets, and attempting to eliminate agencies including IMLS, our history and science institutions are under threat.

Republican trickle down economics means shifting responsibility for essential and emergency government services to the states. And then to local institutions and even individuals. Legislators have to make tough decisions. And yes, Maine and Mainers are in for hard times.

Institutions which provide public access to historic, cultural, and scientific information, provide us with respite and relief from, and perspective on, the challenges forced on us. In bearing witness, they help us better bear our present burdens. In their research, they help us find better solutions to our predicament. For the benefits they provide, especially in these hard times, they - and we - deserve your support. Please vote No on LD 438 and LD 1795. ThankYou.