

## **Revised**

### Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

#### In Opposition to

#### *LD 1738, An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State*

May 5, 2025

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting revised testimony in opposition to LD 1738 since our Legislative Policy Committee established its position on the initiative at its April 29 meeting.

While generally appreciative of the bill's intent, when considering economic uncertainties, and a leveling of the broad-based tax and fee revenues projected to be collected by the state in the coming years, municipal leaders encourage members of the Legislature to focus its attention on fully funding existing programs and services. As experience has taught many seasoned municipal leaders, during economic downturns, it is local government programs, such as jail funding and revenue sharing, that get cut in favor of funding state initiatives. For this reason, it is the preference among municipal leaders that funding be preserved for programs that help to reduce the burdens placed on Maine's property taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this issue.