



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

**Holly Rae Eaton**

P.O Box 277

Deer Isle, ME 04627

Phone: (207) 610-9281

[Holly.Eaton@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Holly.Eaton@legislature.maine.gov)

May 8, 2025

*Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of*  
**LD 876 – An Act to Support Rural Resilience and Emergency Response**  
**Through the Maine Service Fellows Program**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development*

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the committee, my name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes some of the most geographically isolated parts of our state—Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan’s Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven. I’m proud to be a co-sponsor of LD 876, and I want to thank Representative Reilly for bringing this thoughtful bill forward.

We all know this is a year of very tough budget decisions. But I also believe that how we prepare for emergencies is a reflection of our values—and right now, rural Maine often doesn’t have the same backup when crisis hits. LD 876 offers a smart, targeted way to strengthen that backup through the Maine Service Fellows Program, which already has a proven model of supporting under-resourced communities.

By funding fellows and creating a dedicated list of trained volunteers, we’re not just improving disaster response—we’re investing in long-term rural resilience. We’re also recognizing the value of national service and the leadership of veterans and AmeriCorps alumni, who bring deep commitment and experience to this kind of work.

As a representative of island and coastal towns that have faced repeated storm impacts and infrastructure challenges, I see the potential of this program not just to fill gaps during an emergency—but to help knit together a stronger statewide network of support for communities like mine.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge the committee to support LD 876.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan’s Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven