



Falmouth Public Schools
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Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to LD 1312, "An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund." This legislation represents a critical and forward-thinking investment in Maine's future for our students, our schools, and our communities.

Across Maine, public school infrastructure is in crisis. Many of our school buildings are decades old and suffer from chronic disrepair, including leaky roofs, inadequate heating systems, poor air quality, outdated electrical and plumbing systems, and fail to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. These deteriorating conditions not only undermine learning but also pose health and safety risks to students and staff. Despite local efforts, the backlog of major capital improvement needs far outpaces available funding, leaving dozens of approved projects waiting years for state support.

The proposed amendment offers a responsible, sustainable solution. By directing 50% of the investment earnings from the state's budget stabilization fund to the Major Capital School Construction Fund, the bill ensures that when the State's "rainy day" fund reaches its statutory limit, excess earnings are put to work for long-term public benefit. Rather than sitting idle, these funds would address urgent infrastructure needs that local districts simply cannot afford on their own.

Importantly, this approach maintains fiscal responsibility. The transfers occur only when the stabilization fund is at its full 18% cap, ensuring that Maine's financial stability remains protected. At the same time, the bill supports other public priorities by allocating 25% of investment earnings to the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund and 25% to the Irrevocable Trust Fund for Other Post-employment Benefits. This balanced distribution strengthens Maine's long-term commitments to education, the environment, and public employees.

LD 1312 reflects sound fiscal stewardship and a clear recognition that investing in our schools is investing in Maine's future. Our students deserve safe, modern, and healthy learning environments. This bill takes a meaningful step toward making that a reality. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Maine's public education system.

Sincerely,

Steve Nolan
Superintendent