

Florian Knappe  
Casco, ME  
LD 2212

To whom it may concern,

We respectfully submit this petition to express concern over the proposed elimination of the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) program as part of Maine's supplemental budget.

BETR has long helped offset Maine's high personal property taxes on business equipment. For lumberyard retail operations and pine manufacturing facilities, which are among the state's most capital intensive businesses, the program has supported reinvestment, modernization, and long term competitiveness.

Sunsetting BETR would permanently increase operating costs for lumberyards that rely on equipment such as forklifts, delivery fleets, and yard infrastructure, further tightening already thin margins. For pine and wood manufacturers, the loss of BETR would weaken returns on major capital investments, extend payback periods, and reduce incentives to modernize Maine based facilities, putting the state at a competitive disadvantage.

BETR reimbursements are also embedded in many businesses' long term financial plans. Eliminating the program would disrupt cash flow and constrain future investment, particularly at a time of higher interest rates and economic uncertainty. While other programs exist, they do not fully replace BETR for existing, long lived assets common in forest products and building materials operations.

We urge careful consideration of the economic consequences of sunseting BETR for Maine's lumberyards, manufacturers, rural communities, and job base and reject cuts to BETR in the Supplemental Budget.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Florian Knappe, CFO Hancock Lumber