

Steve Theriault
Fort Kent
LD 2212

This testimony is submitted in strong opposition to Part O of LD2212 which proposes eliminating the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) program. The BETR program has been a stable and important part of Maine's business environment for decades helping employers like me invest in equipment, grow operations, and maintain good-paying jobs.

Our company operates in a capital-intensive industry where equipment investments are necessary to maintain stable employment. The BETR program helps offset a portion of the property tax burden tied to those investments allowing us to reinvest in our business, improve productivity, and continue employing local workers.

Eliminating this program would result in higher operating costs and make it more difficult to invest in new equipment and future growth. Programs like BETR help companies like ours support local jobs and contribute to Maine's economy.

The benefits of this program extend beyond individual businesses, supporting suppliers, contractors and local communities that rely on a strong business environment. We want to keep our business going so we can continue supporting the businesses and workers who depend on us.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to reject Part O of LD2212 and maintain the BETR program.