

Carol Wishcamper
Freeport
LD 2212

Testimony in Support of LD 2212, LD 2212, LD 1089, LD 1879, LD 229

Senators Rotundo and Grohoski, Representatives Gattine and Sayre, and members of the Appropriations and Taxation Committees, my name is Carol Wishcamper. I live in Freeport, Maine. My husband and I have benefitted from living in Maine for 49 years and have accrued significant wealth. We are willing to pay our equitable share of taxes.

I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1089, LD 1879, LD 2212 and LD 229, a suite of bills presenting opportunities to create a more equitable tax system. I believe strongly that those of us with greater resources have a responsibility to contribute our fair share to the state we call home. Maine has the choice to protect working families rather than continue to allow tax breaks to corporations and wealthy people.

With thousands of Mainers currently impacted by HR1 (the 'The One Big Beautiful' bill) unable to afford healthcare insurance, unable to access child care and direct health care due to waitlists and shortages, the closing of nursing homes and rural maternity and health centers, we need to provide far more than one-time \$300 temporary assistance checks. We need long-term solutions for long-term problems.

Fair tax structures will help build firewalls against federal harm and provide solutions to this far-reaching affordability crisis. The affordability crisis is not just about purchasing power - it is about stability and fairness.

Wealthy people like me are stepping up by increasing philanthropic giving. Philanthropic investments are helpful but these 'charitable' donations are optional and totally insufficient to address the inequitable and structural problem of tax benefits for the rich.

In this urgent moment of financial impact to Maine working families, I ask you to reconsider outdated myths that raising taxes will have an adverse effect on the business economy of the State. We must prioritize and address the adverse effects of a tax system that favors corporate interests and wealthy people.

Please address HR1's harms to Mainers by attending to and filling safety net holes through enacting progressive revenue policies and investment in permanent solutions.

I hope you will support this package of legislative bills (LD 2212, 229, 1089 and 1879) to create equity in taxation and generate needed revenue to provide safety protections and necessary assistance to families in need.

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