MAINE ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES

MAR

DATE: March 16, 2023

TO: Senator Nicole Grohoski, Chair
             Representative Joe Perry, Chair
             Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

FROM: Thomas Record
             Vice President, Maine Association of Retirees

SUBJECT: LD 529, An Act to Remove the Annual Filing Requirement in the Property Tax Stabilization
             Laws

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and Members of the Committee, I am Thomas Record and am Vice President of the Maine Association of Retirees (MAR), a nonprofit organization comprised of public service retirees including state retirees, retired educators, and retirees from participating local districts.

We thank Representative Poirier for bringing LD 529 forward.

The Property Tax Stabilization Program which was enacted during the 130th Legislature is designed to protect senior citizens who qualify for the Maine homestead exemption from property tax increases.   During MAR's regional member meetings in the fall of 2022, we learned that the program was extremely popular with our members as the majority had already signed up.

As currently structured, seniors must apply to their municipality for the program by December 1 of each year. In addition to the burden on seniors, this also places an administrative burden on municipalities which must process applications received. As currently structured, municipalities are not reimbursed for processing applications.

By providing for only a single application for the Property Tax Stabilization Program as is already done with respect to the homestead exemption, LD 529 replaces needless bureaucracy with a simpler, common sense process.

MAR is ready to participate in work sessions on the bill or to provide whatever other assistance the Committee may require.

CC Representative Jennifer Poirier

Leading the Way for Maine Retirees