

**Testimony in Support of LD 1954**  
***An Act to Address the Recent Mill Closure in the Town of Jay***  
***by Providing Funds to Offset Property Tax Loss***

May 30, 2023

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the Taxation Committee

Hello, my name is Lee Ann Dalessandro. My husband and I have been residents of the Town of Jay for over 20 years, my husband worked at the Androscoggin Mill for 39 years and I have been a member of the Select Board for the past two years. I am here today asking for your support for LD 1954.

I've known the struggles that our residents have faced over the past 10 years with the ups and downs of the paper mill. The successes and failures of the industry have directly impacted our community. Through all of this, our Board and our citizens have been fiscally responsible and have been committed to maintaining a reserve to help offset these impacts. When the pulp digester exploded in 2020 our Board was faced with the decision to increase the tax rate or utilize the funds that the community members have paid into the reserve for years. We chose to utilize the funds from our savings account to help control a huge spike in our tax rate and reduce the impact on our residents. At the same time, we also applied to the State under the Sudden and Severe program.

What we found this year was that the fiscally responsible decision to maintain and then utilize our reserves during a time that our community really needed it has had a negative impact on our revenue sharing.

Over the past year we have been asked but many politicians, from both sides of the aisle, "What can we do to help your community?". In this case, passage of LD 1954 is something that you can do to help the residents of Jay. At a time when they are facing another major impact from the closure of the Androscoggin Mill I ask that you support LD 1954 and restore the revenue sharing that the Town of Jay has lost.