



TOWN OF LINCOLNVILLE
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February 13, 2014

To: Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: D. Michael Ray, Select Board member
Town of Lincolnville, Maine

RE: LD 646 – *An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government (also known as An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program)*

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Michael Ray, a Select Board member for the Town of Lincolnville, here to speak at the request of and on behalf of the Lincolnville Select Board in support of LD 646.

The Town of Lincolnville is a small rural community of 2,312 people located in Waldo County. Recognizing the burden that property taxes place on its residents, the Town of Lincolnville and its senior citizens fully embraced the Property Tax Stabilization Program for Senior Citizens. The Town had 295 apply for the program and 276 met the program requirements and were accepted into the program. In August of 2023 when the property taxes were committed the Town expected that the State of Maine would fully reimburse the lost revenue resulting from the program. Unfortunately, we were made aware in January that this was not the case and that a funding shortfall existed.

The Town had requested reimbursement of \$93,917.81 and the Town received \$52,593.97. While we certainly appreciate the partial reimbursement this leaves a shortfall of \$41,323.84. To a community of 2,312 persons that work hard to make ends meet this is a great deal of money. Money that could be used to pay a teacher, pave a road, fix a dock, shingle a roof, or hundreds of other purposes. We respectfully request that the State of Maine honor the commitment made when the initial law was passed and fully fund the reimbursement.

In closing, the Town of Lincolnville, through its Select Board, is asking for your support of LD 646 - An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.