



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Representative Dan Shagoury in support of*  
**LD 2191, An Act to Provide Relief to Small Businesses Affected by Severe Weather-  
related Events**

*Before the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee*

Good afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. I am Representative Dan Shagoury, and I represent House District 55 - the communities of Hallowell, Manchester and West Gardiner. I am pleased to come before you today speak in favor of LD 2191, An Act to Provide Relief to Small Businesses Affected by Severe Weather-related Events.

The weather has not been kind to Maine over the last couple of months. Back in December, when Senator Hickman and I were first discussing this bill, we were only thinking of helping businesses cope with the damage caused by the horrible storm of December 18. We had no idea that there would be two more storms that would each do as much or more damage on the near horizon.

That December storm was terrible for a lot of places, but I'll talk for a minute about its impact on Hallowell. All the businesses on the river side of Water Street. were impacted with all manner of flood damage, from lost inventory to destroyed machinery and heating and electrical system problems. Many of these businesses were closed for extended periods, some are still closed and some may not reopen. They need help not only to overcome the losses caused by the storm, but to prepare for the next one.

This storm caused similar damage to communities over a large swath of Maine, and then the January storms brought devastation to businesses along virtually the entire coast of our state.

Small businesses have a particularly hard time coping with disasters like this. They don't have the deep pockets of large businesses and can't afford to wait for federal aid that, if it comes, won't be available for months. They need help now, and I believe the state should provide some of that help.

This is a very important bill for small businesses all over the state of Maine, and I hope you will vote that LD 2191 "ought to pass."

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you on this bill, and I will be glad to answer any questions.

District 55: Hallowell, Manchester and West Gardiner