



MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

LD 2214, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal years Ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025

**In Support of Part DD – Maine Office for Community Affairs
In Support of Part EE – Community Resilience Partnership**

March 1, 2024

Senator Rotundo, Senator Nangle, Representative Sachs, Representative Stover and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony in support of Sections DD and EE of LD 2214 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA), and the 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), who were elected by their colleagues and peers to determine MMA's position on bills of municipal interest.

MMA was proud to work with the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to facilitate municipal feedback regarding the coordination and delivery of technical assistance to communities in Maine as directed by LD 1934. Municipal officials are supportive of the proposed Maine Office of Community Affairs and look forward to its creation after the dismantling of the former State Planning Office. A "one-stop-shopping" location for assistance, data, planning, coordination, communication, and funding is an effective mechanism for assisting officials looking to make investments in planning, resiliency, housing, and other local initiatives. These local efforts will be enhanced with the additional support of the new office. Communities without on-staff economic development, planning or emergency management staff will greatly benefit from grant application assistance and education in strategies to maximize dollars for increased federal funds.

Additionally, municipal leaders support the continued funding of the Community Resilience Partnership program and the opportunities that funding can offer. Considering the recent natural disasters across the State, these resilience efforts are more necessary than ever.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective. If you have any questions regarding MMA's position on this bill, or other bills with municipal impact, please contact me at acampbell@memun.org