

Marianne Moore
Senator, District 6



3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 2225, An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events

March 6, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. My name is Marianne Moore. I proudly represent Senate District 6, which includes all of Washington County as well as 16 Communities in Eastern Hancock County. I am here to speak in support of LD 2225, "An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events."

I want to thank the governor and presiding officers for bringing forward this critical bill.

As we all know, a series of storms wreaked havoc across our state in December and January. These storms caused widespread power outages, severe flooding, road washouts, and a number of fatalities. While the western part of the state got the brunt of the December 18 storm, my district was devastated by the January storms.

Incredible winds and severe flooding changed the landscapes in our communities and our towns are hurting trying to get things back to normal. Some are facing millions of dollars in needed repairs. I am sure that the same is true with many of your districts.

According to FEMA, the December storm alone caused more than \$20 million in public infrastructure damage. At Governor Mills' request, President Biden made a Major Disaster Declaration to help the individuals, towns, and the state recover from this incredible damage.

After the December devastation, the January storms caused an estimated \$70.3 million in damage to public infrastructure. In late February, Governor Mills formally requested a Major Disaster Declaration. We are still waiting to hear if the President will approve the Declaration.

While the amount of damage exceeds the ability of the State of Maine to address, we must do our part to contribute to the repair of our state's infrastructure.

I ask for your support of this important bill and will do my best to answer any questions you may have.