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Testimony of Rep. Morgan Rielly in support of
LD 2225, An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Good afternoon Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and honorable members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. My name is Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of my hometown of Westbrook. I am pleased to support **LD 2225, An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events**.

LD 2225 transfers \$50,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to the Maine Department of Transportation for municipal, state or regionally significant infrastructure adaptation, repair and improvements that support public safety, protection of essential community assets, regional economic needs and long-term infrastructure resiliency.

Project types may include working waterfront infrastructure, culverts, storm water systems, water system upgrades and other interventions that are essential to addressing the impacts of climate change – especially coastal and inland flooding.

LD 2225 is crucial, not only to help communities that have been directly impacted by recent storms begin to rebuild, but to address future extreme coastal weather events. It will help rebuild and strengthen our working waterfront, which is key to our state's economy and identity. Passing this bill will support our commercial fisherman and aquaculturists whose livelihoods have been greatly harmed by these past storms.

According to the Maine Climate Council, our state's sea levels are projected to rise between 1.1 and 3.2 feet by 2050 and 3 and 9.3 feet by 2100, depending on how successful and quick we are at curbing global carbon emissions rates. With this knowledge, we can expect to see similar events as well as more dangerous weather events poised to destroy our communities' infrastructure in years to come and threaten our fishing and aquaculture industry. I urge you all to pass LD 2225 to protect our communities and working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.