



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Randall A. Greenwood

38 Witherell Road
Wales, ME 04280
Residence: (207) 754-6604
Randall.Greenwood@legislature.maine.gov

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LD 372

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. I am Representative Randy Greenwood, proudly representing my friends and neighbors in Litchfield, Monmouth and my hometown of Wales, both in Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties. I am here to express my strong support for LD 372, "*An Act to Protect Maine People from Inflation by Exempting Gold and Silver Coins and Bullion from the State Sales and Use Tax.*" This legislation is a critical step in helping protect Maine's residents from the devastating effects of inflation and economic instability.

As we have seen in recent years, inflation can erode the purchasing power of the dollar, leaving many families and individuals struggling to maintain their standard of living. In times of economic uncertainty, people often look to precious metals like gold and silver as a hedge against inflation, preserving wealth in times of financial instability. Paying tax on Gold and Silver is the equivalent of paying a sales tax on an ATM machine withdrawal as you pull your money out. Gold and silver is currency as outlined in the Constitution in Article 1 Section 10.

However, the current taxation on gold and silver coins and bullion exacerbates the financial challenges faced by everyday Mainers. By taxing these valuable assets, the state is discouraging individuals from investing in precious metals and ultimately reducing their ability to protect their savings from the effects of inflation. In fact, 45 states have already ended sales tax on gold and silver, including New Hampshire. Of the five remaining states that still levy this tax; four of them are considering legislation to eliminate it this year.

Exempting gold and silver coins and bullion from the state sales and use tax would also send a clear message that Maine is committed to protecting its residents from the negative impacts of rising prices. Furthermore, this bill would help Maine align itself with other states that have already recognized the importance of providing exemptions for precious metals as a means of financially protecting citizens.

District 56 Litchfield, Wales and Monmouth

By supporting this bill, we are not only supporting the financial well-being of Maine residents but also creating a more stable economic environment in which individuals have more control over their own financial futures. This common sense legislation will encourage savings, protect personal wealth and support Maine's long-term economic health.

I urge you to support this important piece of legislation, which will provide meaningful relief to our citizens and help shield them from the impacts of inflation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.