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Senator, District 12

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Presented by Senator Beebe-Center**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**LD 119, "An Act to Include the Declaration of an Emergency by the President of the United States as a Basis to Allow the Governor to Provide Disaster Relief to Local Governments"**

**February 26, 2025**

Good morning, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the committee on State and Local Government. I am Senator Beebe-Center, and I represent Senate District 12, which is composed of all of Knox County except for the towns of Washington and Isle Au Haut. I am here today to present LD 119, "An Act to Include the Declaration of an Emergency by the President of the United States as a Basis to Allow the Governor to Provide Disaster Relief to Local Governments", on behalf of the Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management.

This amendment seeks to add "Emergency Declarations" to the language of Title 37-B §744 to better align State and Federal law regarding disaster recovery.

Maine has faced a notable increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters. May we not forget the devastating flooding in December 2023. Then in January 2024, back-to-back storms devastated coastal communities, causing millions of dollars in damage and necessitating extensive recovery efforts.

These events demonstrate the importance of a disaster law that makes available all the disaster recovery tools being utilized by state and federal authorities.

By passing this amendment, we ensure that State law clearly reflects the requirement for State disaster support to communities following emergencies and major disasters.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I invite you to direct your questions to the following presenters. Thank you.