



Russell Black  
Senator, District 5

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 1 “An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure”**

**Public Hearing: February 27, 2025**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

I am Senator Russell Black and I am here today in support of LD 1, “An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure.”

My testimony specifically focuses on Part C of this bill, which will create the State Resilience Office within the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This office will help address the ongoing problem of flooding in Maine by providing funding to update outdated flood maps and reduce flood risks.

Flooding of the Sandy River has been an ongoing issue in my district as well as surrounding communities. In addition to farmers being affected, border towns such as Farmington, Norridgewock, and New Sharon have seen more flooding over the years, which puts homes, roads, livestock, and farmland at risk. The problem is getting worse, and it's clear that we need more updated tools to respond to these challenges.

Our flood maps are out of date, with the most recent ones published between 1994 and 2000. These clearly need to be updated. Another beneficial study is something called a geomorphic assessment. This would help us understand why certain areas of the river are eroding and how we can fix or at least minimize future damage.

The funding in this bill, especially the \$9.6 million transfer listed in Part C, will allow us to update our flood maps, improve our understanding of the flooding risks, and better protect the communities most at risk. It's crucial that we start working on this now.

Thank you for considering this important bill, and I urge you to support it.