



CITY OF  
**SOUTH  
PORTLAND**

**Scott T. Morelli**  
*City Manager*

**Joshua J. Reny**  
*Assistant City Manager*

March 3, 2025

**Re: Testimony in support of LD457, An Act to Fund Climate Resiliency Projects  
Related to the Repair of Campus Infrastructure Used for Active Transportation and  
Outdoor Recreation**

Chairman Rafferty, Chairwoman Murphy and distinguished members of the Committee; Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of LD457.

My name is Scott Morelli and I am the City Manager of South Portland, Maine. Our city has been collaborating with Southern Maine Community College to maintain a publicly accessible trail system around Spring Point, the location of historic Fort Preble on the SMCC Campus. The fort is not only an historic asset of the State of Maine and the City of South Portland, but is a popular landmark at the gateway and entry point to Portland Harbor.

In recent years, we have witnessed successive storms batter the fort and portions of the historic structure have fallen into the sea. Without an immediate intervention, we fear the fort will eventually be lost in a matter of years. The college has invested its own resources into stabilizing the structure to mitigate further damage and protect the public. However, the college is constrained for resources and we all must acknowledge that this effort is well outside their core mission to educate and train our future workforce.

A more deliberate intervention is needed, which requires dedicated resources that leverage additional investment from private donations and federal grants for a more lasting solution. This funding will ensure the fort is properly stabilized and protected, and repairs can be made. Although climate change may result in more intense storms in the years ahead, there are modern techniques to stabilize and repair historic stone structures that will go a long way to protect this investment in historic preservation and maintaining the area for the public's continued use and enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted,

**Scott Morelli**  
City Manager