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Hello Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and honorable members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

My name is Representative Alicia Collins. I represent the people of District 61, the towns of Sidney and Vassalboro. I apologize for not being able to make the Committee meeting today. My schedule includes 3 bills and committee work.

I appreciate the opportunity to send you testimony and my support of LD 832 – **An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce the Debt of the Vassalboro Sanitary District.**

I'll take a moment to share the why behind this bill, offer the assurance it is a one-time funding measure, and a thank you in advance.

A couple years ago, The Town of Vassalboro completed necessary upgrades to their sanitary district. Unfortunately, these updates happened at the same time interest rates and inflation were climbing, causing a larger than planned debt service to the residents of town. This caused costs to be more than double for the users.

Another unfortunate thing (from my understanding) is only about 200 users or structures are in the Sanitary District. Because of that lack of users, the costs are causing the customers to face fees of more than the property taxes to the homes or businesses they serve.

One resident emailed, "...we thank you for working to abate the sewer charges. We run the Vassalboro Grange, and the new charges are onerous. This (is) particularly true since it is a seasonal grange, but the sewer folks don't recognize this...."

The Town (including citizens working together) have found some grant money to supplement and pay down the debt, but that still leaves a gap of about \$2.6 million dollars as of December 2022.

We are asking for a one-time "shot in the arm" of \$2 million dollars to bring down the debt services and help the people and businesses of Vassalboro.

In a time when every district, every county, and every town is asking for funding, we appreciate your consideration regarding this request.

Thank you,

Alicia Collins,

Resident and Citizen, Sidney