

Testimony in Support of

LD 1206: An Act to Control Property Taxes by Increasing the Percentage of the Business
Equipment Tax Exemption That Municipalities May Recover

April 2, 2025

Chairpersons Senator Grohoski and Representative Cloutier and honorable members of the
Taxation Committee:

My name is Kerry Leichtman. I am a Certified Maine Assessor serving the jurisdictions of
Camden and Rockport and am testifying today in support of LD 1206.

In 2020, the Office of Program Evaluation & Government Accountability (OPEGA) published a
report to the Government Oversight and Taxation Committees on whether or not the BETR and
BETE programs were achieving their stated objectives. It not only concluded that they were not,
but the report also stated that one of the program's failings was, "Municipalities are not
adequately reimbursed for mandated expenses." LD 1206 seeks to gradually reduce the
exemption, leaving a portion of it in place and returning the rest to the municipalities.

The reimbursement increase will provide indirect property tax relief for Maine taxpayers. With
municipalities recovering more of their personal property revenues it will reduce pressure on mil
rates.

Thank you for considering my testimony.