

Senators Rotundo and Curry, Representatives Gattine and Gere and members of the Appropriation and Financial Affairs Committee and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development, I am here to in opposition to LD 2212.

My name is Steve DiMillo, and I operate DiMillo's on the Water in Portland.

Each of you represents communities that will be affected by reducing the Maine Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund by \$700,000. I can't stress enough how important those dollars are to businesses that depend on tourism. I'm not speaking of just hospitality businesses but all the vendors that support our businesses. As I write this testimony, I'm watching trucks delivering groceries, seafood, produce, supplies and a myriad of other products used in our operation. Our restaurant is serviced by many other businesses in the community that employ people, pay taxes and support organizations that help residents live a better life here. It's all connected and any effort to diminish the marketing of Maine as a tourist destination would be a mistake.

I know cuts need to be made in many state departments and that those cuts are difficult. I'm just asking you to think about the ramifications of this cut. Please help keep our businesses healthy and economically viable by rejecting LD 2221.

We employ 110 people in a very competitive environment. Doing business in Maine is challenging, let's not make it any harder.

Steve DiMillo

DiMillo's On The Water

(207) 772-2216 [steve@dimillos.com](mailto:steve@dimillos.com)