

Testimony of Joe Legee, Deputy Director, Maine Emergency Management Agency

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS WITH THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**LD 2212, “An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations
for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and
Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of
State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027”**

Good morning, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

My name is Joe Legee, Deputy Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, and I am here to testify in support of LD 2212, the supplemental budget bill.

This is the final budget proposal from the Administration. The proposal delivers financial relief to Maine people, preserves programs lawmakers and Maine people support, and addresses some emergent issues, including impacts of new federal legislation. Governor Mills’ guiding belief has always been that our strongest asset is the people of Maine and that’s why this budget, like those in the past, seeks to invest in and support them. We look forward to working with the Legislature in the coming weeks to enact a balanced budget that supports Maine people and protects the fiscal health of our state.

The Maine Emergency Management Agency has only one budget initiative. Under the Administration program on **page A-21**, this initiative provides federal spending authority to support anticipated disaster grant expenditures.

Because disaster recovery projects are scoped and obligated incrementally, Maine does not receive the full award amount when federal assistance is accepted. Instead, funds are provided over time, project by project, requiring frequent financial orders in prior fiscal years.

The proposed allotment would better position the State to issue federal awards to Maine communities promptly after federal approval.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time. I am happy to address any questions either here or in the work session that follows.