



Town of Harpswell

P.O. Box 39

Harpswell, ME 04079

January 26, 2023

Testimony In Support
Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
LD 142, An Act to Fund Climate-related Service Work

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, this testimony is submitted in support of **LD 142, An Act to Fund Climate-related Service Work**. Harpswell, like other communities in Maine, faces the need to address the increasing impacts of climate change on our built infrastructure, natural resources and most vulnerable residents.

As we experience the increasing frequency and duration of severe storms, we in Maine face damaging winds, damaging storm surges, extended utility outages, so-called “sunny day flooding”— flooding unrelated to storms but due to increasing occurrence of extreme high tides known as “king tides.” These require action and that action needs to be supported. LD 142 proposes needed assistance to do so.

The Maine Climate Corps, established in 2022 through passage of LD 1974 by the 130th Legislature, provides assistance through community collaboration by providing grants, technical assistance and training to community service corps programs with the mission of responding to the impacts of climate change.

We the undersigned support increasing the capacity of the Maine Climate Corps through LD 142 in order to offer this needed help to more communities and to provide both the workforce to do so and the support of that workforce by providing a living wage and training toward needed careers in our state. Particularly important is that this support is to be offered to “disproportionally affected communities...” and will “...employ persons representing the economic and demographic diversity of communities...”

Funding this climate-related service work, as proposed in LD 142, will benefit the entire state by supporting our need to address the severe and increasing impacts of climate change that affect us all in varying ways. Appropriately, the focus of funded projects will be based on community collaboration and on specific community-identified needs. They must be evidence-based and measurable and they must address one or more of the following areas: transportation, energy, housing, the coastal zone, public health, land and fresh water preservation, community resilience and climate-related education.

We respectfully ask that you vote LD 142 Ought to Pass.

Harpswell Board of Selectmen

Handwritten signature of Kevin Johnson in blue ink.

Kevin Johnson, Chairman

Handwritten signature of David I. Chipman in blue ink.

David I. Chipman, Selectman

Handwritten signature of Jane G. Covey in blue ink.

Jane G. Covey, Selectman