

February 10,2025

To: Committee on Housing and Economic Development

I am writing this letter in support of the act to increase storm preparedness for Maine communities, homes, and infrastructure.

During the storms of 12/24/22 1/10/24 and 1/13/24 the community of Old Orchard Beach experienced severe weather resulting in millions of dollars in damage. Residents who had never experienced flooding were forced from their homes. Sand dunes were destroyed by record high tides and the storm surge. Areas of town were cut off by the flood waters making rescue only possible by a front-end loader from Public Works or Wardens who responded to our call for assistance in an air boat.

Firefighters responded to numerous electrical emergency's due to water in homes and waded through chest deep water pulling fire hose to put out a garage fire.

We need to work towards improving infrastructure, making all communities more resilient as the storms we see are increasing in severity. Increase emergency communication along with projects to lessen the impact of future storms. To increase public awareness and education and increase the capabilities of public safety.

This I believe will be made possible through the act to increase storm preparedness for Maine Communities homes and infrastructure LD1.

Thank you.

John H. Gilboy III, Fire Chief

