



**HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

February 11, 2025, 1:00 PM

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD 1**

Dear Chairs Curry and Gere, and Members of the Committee:

American Flood Coalition (AFC) appreciates the opportunity to express its **support for LD 1**, An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure. AFC is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit coalition that drives transformational adaptation to protect communities from higher seas, stronger storms, and more frequent flooding. AFC comprises more than 450 elected officials, local leaders, municipalities, civic and military groups, and businesses that work together to advance flood solutions at the local, state, and federal levels.

We applaud the Maine Legislature for taking this important step to prepare the state for future hazards, including flooding, by creating the Home Resiliency Program, bolstering hazard mitigation resources at the Maine Emergency Management Agency, and establishing a State Resilience Office. In our work across the country, we have seen the importance of state action to support municipalities, tribal communities, and homeowners in building their own resilience. Research shows that communities can save \$4 for every \$1 invested in retrofitting homes and public infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> In general, communities can save \$13 in economic costs, damages, and cleanup for every \$1 invested in resilience.<sup>2</sup> Cumulatively, the proposed investments in this legislation would yield a substantial return for the state.

Crucially, LD 1 establishes and provides funding for a dedicated State Resilience Office. For the people and economy of Maine, there is an inestimable value of an empowered state leader focused on resilience. And with a dedicated team of professionals to coordinate the state's resilience priorities and provide communities with resources to build resilience, the state will be set up for long-term success. Nationwide, states with empowered resilience leaders do a better job of directing resources where they will have the greatest impact. With a central coordinator to assess risk and then prioritize projects, programs, and policies, these states more effectively draw down federal funding and deploy resources to get resilience projects in the ground faster.

Through the provisions in LD 1, Maine will carry out proven approaches to understanding and managing flood risk that will enable homeowners to protect and preserve the value of their homes, and communities to more effectively manage disasters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this effort to make Maine more resilient.

Respectfully,

**Anne Brody**

State Government Relations Director

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<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Building Sciences, [Mitigation Saves: Mitigation Saves up to \\$13 per \\$1 Invested](#).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [The Preparedness Payoff: The Economic Benefits of Investing in Climate Resilience](#).