



CITY OF BANGOR

Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Testimony in support of LD 347 – “An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales Tax and Excise Tax Revenue”

February 12, 2025,

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Debbie Laurie and I am the City Manager of Bangor. I am providing testimony today on behalf of the City of Bangor in support of LD 347, An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales Tax and Excise Tax Revenue.

As a service center community, Bangor is a vital local, regional and statewide economic engine that provides access to educational, employment, retail, professional, medical and social services not available in other locales. We are home to 15 Adult Use Cannabis establishments. All of which contribute to the broad based sales and excise tax revenue collected by the state.

The Legislature and the City Council face similar budgetary challenges: increasing costs, flat or declining revenues, compliance with mandates, strategic investments in the future, increasing calls for service, etc. While the State’s revenue streams are broad, at the municipal level our primary revenue stream remains limited to property taxes. With the plethora of bills under consideration in the coming session, it is clear that one of our shared priorities for the coming year is property tax relief.

The Legislature found that the principal problem of financing municipal services is the burden on the property tax, and that to stabilize the municipal property tax burden and to aid in financing all municipal services, it is necessary to provide funds from the broad-based taxes of the State.

The City of Bangor believes LD 347 is another means by which the state can share taxes generated within its communities within those communities to help directly relieve the property tax burden and to strengthen the State and local partnership.

On behalf of the Bangor City Council, I urge you to pass LD 347 to alleviate the property tax burden on our residents.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

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