

February 16, 2021

**Testimony of Sarah Hansen, Executive Director of Greater Portland Landmarks  
in support of LD 201, “An Act To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Promote  
Weatherization in the Buildings Sector by Extending the Sunset Date for the  
Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit”**

Senator Chipman, Representative Terry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Sarah Hansen and I am the Executive Director of Greater Portland Landmarks. Founded in 1964, Greater Portland Landmarks' mission is to preserve and revitalize greater Portland's remarkable legacy of historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes and parks. Our goal is to save greater Portland's historic places through preservation and adaptive reuse while promoting creative new architecture that enhances historic neighborhoods.

We are providing testimony to indicate our strong support for LD 201, “An Act To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Promote Weatherization in the Buildings Sector by Extending the Sunset Date for the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit.” **We fully support extending this sunset provision until 2040.**

Established in 2008 and reauthorized in 2011, Maine's state historic tax credit for income-producing properties stimulates economic activity and jobs, creates a net revenue gain to state and local governments, and fosters resilient, authentic, and dynamic communities. **Since its inception, more than 106 projects have been completed with total construction costs of more than \$550 million, and an increase in municipal assessment value of more than \$166 million.** The economic and fiscal impact of Maine's historic tax credit program has been widespread and includes small projects like storefront restorations to the rehabilitation of large textile mills. Maine's cities and small towns have benefitted by additional income from increased assessment values of the restored properties and from the construction industry jobs these projects have supported.

The preservation and reuse of historic buildings is crucially important to achieving many goals of the Maine Climate Council, as the rehabilitation of existing structures leverages embodied energy, keeping durable materials in place rather than in landfills, driving investment in jobs rather than materials. By extending the credit to 2040, we will enable a continued pipeline of rehabilitation projects that will help meet these ambitious goals.

We urge you to adopt a continuation of the highly successful HPTC in Maine law. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have regarding our support for LD 201.

Cordially,



Sarah Hansen  
Executive Director