

April 4, 2014

Honorable Dawn Hill, Senate Chair  
Honorable Margaret R. Rotundo, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Dear Senator Hill and Representative Rotundo,

After a long debate and a number of concessions, we voted unanimously in the Taxation Committee to support LD 1664, "An Act To Encourage Charitable Contributions to Non-Profit Organizations" and to fully support the mission to sustain and grow our nonprofit community in Maine.

We want to pass on to you and our colleagues on the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee that this is a good bill and deserves to be funded, but we would also like to take this opportunity to convey our concerns around the funding of this bill in FY15. We voted for this bill in Committee to support the removal of the cap on charitable contribution deductions and this bill accomplishes this goal in three steps. The first step would increase the cap for charitable deductions by \$10,000 with a roughly \$1.4 million impact in FY15.

As members of the Taxation Committee, we voted for this as part of the bill because the overall mission is important. But you have a different task. In recognition that there are many different competing proposals currently before you, we would like you to know that we believe that the immediate needs by programs like Revenue Sharing, the Property Tax Fairness Credit, and Head Start would be higher priorities than the funding of LD 1664 for FY15. The vote we took was in support of the bill before us, but we want to stress to you that it should not be at the expense of other programs that lift people out of poverty and help defray the impact of property taxes on those who need help the most.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not to hesitate to contact us if more clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

Representative Ryan Tipping-Spitz  
Representative Matthew W. Moonen  
Representative Nathan L. Libby  
Representative Stephen S. Stanley  
Representative Joseph E. Brooks