131st Legislature Senate of Maine Senate District 5 Senator Russell Black 3 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0003 (207) 287-1505

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It is an honor to represent you, your family, and the communities of District 5 in the Maine Senate. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me to work for the betterment of our region and I can assure you that I will work tirelessly on your behalf.

This will be my third term in the Maine State Senate, previously serving all of Franklin County and some towns in Kennebec County. While my district has changed, as a result of redistricting, I know many of the important issues to those in rural Maine remain the same.

With a struggling economy and the cost of groceries, gas, home heating oil and electricity increasing, Maine families, seniors, and small businesses need relief from the high costs breaking our budgets. Addressing the policies that have created some of these high costs is a priority of mine in the coming session. In addition to addressing these costs, the 131st Legislature is tasked with passing a balanced budget by June 30, 2023. This will require careful review of current state spending and prioritizing our needs versus wants, just like Mainers do with their own budgets. As your State Senator, I will be working to find ways to lower taxes and rein in state spending so that you can keep more of your hard-earned money.

I hope during these difficult times we all come together as a community, and reach out to our neighbors in need. Check in with each other and reach out if you or someone you know is struggling. As always, I am eager to help with state-related issues.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. The 131st Legislature certainly has a great deal of work to do; but I believe that if we come together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Please feel free to contact me at 287-1505 or Russell.Black@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely

Russell Black State Senator

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