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Talking Points in Support of LD 1787

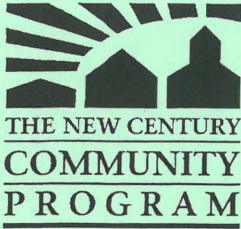
Cultural Affairs Council

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Talking Points in SUPPORT of LD 1787.

The bill: LD 1787, An Act to Support the New Century Community Program, appropriates \$4,500,000 to continue the New Century Community Program.

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Bruno (R-Raymond)

Cosponsors: Sen. Peggy Rotundo (D-Androscoggin); Speaker Patrick Colwell (D-Gardiner); Rep. Glenn Cummings (D-Portland); Rep. Jeffrey Kaelin (R-Winterport); Rep. Richard Rosen (R-Bucksport); Rep. Ben Dudley (D-Portland); Rep. Hannah Pingree (D-North Haven); Rep. Chris Rector (R-Thomaston); Sen. Arthur Mayo (R-Bath).

THE NEW CENTURY COMMUNITY PROGRAM

- **What is it?** It is a grant program that, since 1999, has provided over \$4 million in critical seed money for arts, preservation, and library projects in 100's of communities throughout Maine.
- **Who administers it?** The Maine Cultural Affairs Council (CAC). The CAC was formed by the Legislature in 1990 and now includes 7 statewide organizations: the Maine State Library; the Maine State Museum; the Maine Arts Commission; the Maine Historic Preservation Commission; the Maine State Archives; the Maine Historical Society; and the Maine Humanities Council.
- **Fair and streamlined grant award process.** CAC members work together on grant applications, often jointly funding them. A *simplified application form* aids small organizations seeking funds.
- **High matching funds; no overhead.** Each New Century dollar averages three dollars in federal, municipal, or private matching funds. No New Century dollars are used for overhead.
- **National recognition.** The Program has received national recognition from the Pew Charitable Trust and Harvard's Kennedy School for its innovative approach to funding cultural projects.

Economic Growth

- ✂ Support for downtown revitalization and jobs for historic building restoration.
- 🏠 Support for cultural tourism.
- 🏛 Expand museum and arts jobs -- Maine's 6th fastest growing industry.

Cultural Heritage

- 🏛 Support for local historical societies and museums.
- 📖 Preservation of key town records and historic artifacts.
- 📺 Maine Memory Network, a virtual museum of Maine history.

Education

- 📖 Library, arts, and music programs for lifelong learning.
- 👤 Youth and adult literacy programs.
- 💻 Support for technology within schools and libraries.