



STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

JEFF M. McCABE
MAJORITY LEADER

November 6, 2015

George C. Gervais, Commissioner
Department of Economic & Community Development
59 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Commissioner Gervais,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the proposed budget cuts by the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Community Development Block Grant Program. If imposed, the \$100,000 in cuts to the Maine Downtown Center and \$400,000 to the Downtown Revitalization Grants would be devastating to Skowhegan and to central Maine.

Through the tireless efforts of Main Street Skowhegan, our historic downtown has been revitalized. Because of their commitment and dedication, new and exciting businesses are filling our storefronts. These local businesses offer many unique shopping opportunities. The Bankery, for instance, sells artistically designed cakes. Couples from all over Maine travel here to purchase their wedding cakes. Located right next door to the Bankery, River Roads Artisans Gallery offers visitors the opportunity to view and purchase one-of-a-kind art, created by local artisans. Russakoff Jewelers, Key Appliance and Griffin's are also great examples of stores that have been in Skowhegan for years and continue to thrive.

In Waterville, Waterville Main Street has helped the downtown to blossom and grow. New shops fill what used to be empty storefronts and the Waterville Opera House and Farmer's Market attract visitors from all over.

It would be devastating to our communities if funding from the Community Development Block Grant Program ceased for these amazing programs. I urge you to reconsider the changes to the 2016 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff McCabe".

Jeff McCabe
State Representative