

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

July 21, 2021

Mr. Matthew E. Ammon
Director of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W., Suite 8236
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Mr. Ammon:

I write in support of the application submitted by the City of Auburn, Maine, to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Lead Hazard Control and Health Homes Lead Hazard Reduction grant program. This project would to leverage the efforts of state and local partners to increase the stock of affordable lead-safe properties in Auburn.

For decades, childhood lead poisoning has negatively affected the lives of many in the Auburn community. Lead poisoning in at-risk communities can cause an increase in learning disabilities, lower rates of IQ, speech development deficiencies, attention deficit disorders, and aggressive behaviors. This puts great strain on families, the City's school system, and on the juvenile justice system. The Auburn Lead and Healthy Housing Program leverages key stakeholders at all levels in a pursuit to end childhood lead poisoning, mitigate home health hazards, support small businesses, and engage the local workforce.

The lead hazard and healthy homes activities funded through this proposal will specifically focus on improving developmental outcomes for children by limiting exposure to lead, lowering the incidence of lung cancer by mitigating radon, improving energy efficiency of older homes, and promoting aging in place by preventing catastrophic falls. Furthermore, the City has been identified as an Opportunity Zone, necessitating the need for investment to make the area more attractive for economic growth and job creation and the resulting increased demand for safe and affordable housing.

I urge your careful consideration of its application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify me [REDACTED] when a final decision has been made. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator