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Testimony by Robert Neveu
President & Co-Founder, Certify, Inc.

In Support of L.D. 390

An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Economic Development

March 1, 2017

Senators Hamper and Volk, Representatives Gattine and Fecteau, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Labor, Commerce, Research & Economic Development:

My name is Robert Neveu, and I am the President and Co-Founder of a technology firm based in Portland, Maine, called Certify, Inc. (www.Certify.com). We have been fortunate enough to work directly with the Maine Venture Fund to include their organization as a shareholder in Certify. I have found the leadership team at MVF to be a valuable resource for myself, my board, and my leadership team. The pragmatic approach taken by John Burns and his team has allowed Certify to focus on our management objectives, executing a growth strategy for the firm since the Series A investment in 2009, of which MVF participated.

Today, Certify has grown from 10 employees in 2009 to over 120 today. We offer an extensive series of employee benefits (health, medical, dental, disability, 401k match, community volunteer efforts) and all of this would not have been possible without the direct support of our shareholders.

In addition to the direct investment and board support, MVF has structured an eco-system of Maine based technology companies and they continue to encourage the leaders of these firms to share best practices, ideas, and really "lift all ships" that are floating here in Maine. This level of support is incredibly valuable to the men and women that take the leap and start a technology company here in Maine. To have a strong, knowledgeable, experienced and thoughtful capital partner, which is supported by the State of Maine, gives a clear signal to every entrepreneur that Maine cares about our future, our shared success, and our ability to compete globally.

I strongly support the L.D. 390, and respectfully ask for your support of this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Robert Neveu, President