



February 7, 2023

To: Joint Standing Committee, Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Innovation,
Development, Economic Advancement, and Business

From: Cynergy, affiliate of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce
269 Western Avenue
Augusta, ME 04330

Re: Testimony in Support of the LD 258 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025" – in regard to the Appropriation to the Maine Development Foundation for the Realize Maine Network Program

To Whom It May Concern,

Cynergy, the new professional's group affiliate of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce, respectfully submits this written testimony in support of renewing biennial support to the Maine Development Program for the Realize Maine Network (RMN).

Cynergy has been fortunate to be the recipient of prior years' RMN mini-grant funding specifically designed to promote our professional development and networking programs through the community. Through these grants, we have been able to grow our steering committee membership, helping to develop our region's future leaders, as well as develop meaningful programming, helping to create a community for new professionals—new to the workforce, new to the area, new to the profession—in our region, so they are more likely to live, work, play, and most importantly stay in central Maine.

In the coming year, we anticipate almost doubling the amount of programming Cynergy has to offer with a series focusing on highlighting community businesses, learning from community leaders, and encouraging entrepreneurship in this region. We have relied heavily and truly appreciate the funding support from RMN and strongly support continued funding in the upcoming budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Allen, Chair
Cynergy Steering Committee

Katelyn Pushard, Past Chair
Cynergy Steering Committee