

***Testimony of Scott Hinkel, Green 4 Maine, LLC, in support of
LD 1981 An Act to Extend and Expand the Loring Job Increment
Financing Fund before the Joint Committee on Innovation,
Development, Economic Advancement and Business***

January 9, 2024

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Scott Hinkel from Green 4 Maine, LLC and I am submitting testimony in favor of LD 1981.

In early 2023, Green 4 Maine, LLC, purchased a large parcel of land and buildings at the Loring Commerce Center and is in the process of executing upon a long-term, strategic redevelopment business plan. The Green 4 Maine Program's Mission is a revitalization project that will breathe life and job creation back into the former Loring Airforce Base, surrounding Communities and Northern Maine at large. The Strategic Roadmap will be driven by 10 Industry Foundational Economic Growth Pillars with the focused objective of diversifying Loring into a vibrant, LIVE, WORK and PLAY, Green destination location known as the Green 4 Maine Campus at Loring. It will become the incubator hub for innovation, technology and creativity. It will create a 100% Green Campus that will be self-sustaining and be "energy positive", producing all its energy on premise within 5 years' time focused on renewable energy projects.

The Green 4 Maine mission will be interwoven into the fabric of the Communities of Aroostook County to provide future jobs and economic stimulus for the entire region. Green 4 Maine is working with the Loring Development Authority in a long-term Strategic Alliance to pursue a vision for the redevelopment of the properties at Loring. This vision is 100% dependent upon and will not be able to be achieved unless the Loring Development Authority is on sure footing, financially stable and self-sustaining. Green 4 Maine will not be successful without the symbiotic and partnering assistance of the Loring Development Authority being in a financially strong and resilient position to support the massive public infrastructure that needs to be constantly maintained across the entire Campus. LD 1981 provides the Loring Development Authority with one more tool in the toolbox in order to be more financially secure to meet its minimum obligations in support of Green 4 Maine and other campus businesses into the future.

It is no secret that the Loring Development Authority has been severely, financially challenged for the better part of many years now and its buildings, roads, grounds and public infrastructure continues to age and it needs attention which takes real dollars and real investment on an ongoing and regular basis. The continuation of the JIF Program that is already in place currently is a mechanism that the State has immediately at its disposal to begin to provide the level of minimum financial support that is absolutely required and necessary for the long term sustainability of the Loring Development Authority.

The bottom line is that Green 4 Maine's short-term and long-term success is fully tied to a healthy and financially stable and self-sustaining Loring Development Authority. Our wagon is tied directly to the Loring Development Authorities' horse and anything that jeopardizes the Loring Development Authority in any way, shape or form does so at the direct demise of the Green 4 Maine's job creation and economic development initiatives. The LD 1981 commitment is critically needed for the long-term support and growth for the entire Aroostook County Region, noting the Loring Development Authority being at the heart of the opportunity for the future of Northern Maine' economic development, business attraction and jobs creation.