



Testimony by Andrew Rinaldi  
Co-Founder, Defendify

In Support of L.D. 125

*An Act to Increase the Total Amount of Credits Authorized Under the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program*

February 5, 2025

Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

I write today in strong support of the bill sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Teresa Pierce to reset the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program to \$10 million annually.

Having leveraged the program to attract investors for several years, I can attest to its invaluable role in securing investor interest.

I witnessed firsthand the challenges encountered when the program was at the \$5 million level, which created uncertainty for startups and investors, driving confusion the morning of January 2, 2019, when concerned founders—me included—lined up early outside the FAME's office in Augusta.

The program is a vital tool for fostering entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic growth in our state. Having spent over seven years in the heart of the Maine startup community, I can attest the program has been instrumental in attracting private investment to Maine-based startups, helping innovative businesses scale, create high-quality jobs, and strengthen our local economy.

Access to early-stage capital remains one of the greatest challenges for Maine entrepreneurs. By incentivizing investment in Maine businesses, this program has spurred economic activity across diverse industries, from cybersecurity, technology, and manufacturing to agriculture, aquaculture, and material sciences. Without this support, startup businesses would struggle to secure the funding necessary to establish, grow, and remain in Maine.

The continued success of this program underscores its value. It not only fuels innovation but also keeps Maine competitive with other states—many of which do not offer similar incentives but are perceived as having greater investment appeal and opportunity.

I urge the committee to maintain and expand this critical program to ensure that Maine remains a place where entrepreneurs want to build their businesses and our state's prosperity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Andrew Rinaldi".

T. Andrew Rinaldi  
Co-Founder, Defendify

*SUBMITTED: JANUARY 31, 2025*

T. Andrew Rinaldi  
Defendify (Portland, ME)  
LD 125

(please see attached for written testimony)