



PORTLAND
Regional Chamber of Commerce

93 Exchange Street Portland, ME 04101 • (207) 772-2811

chamber@portlandregion.com • PortlandRegion.com

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Testimony in Support of LD 210-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, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027

Maine Development Foundation, Realize Maine Network Initiative

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
February 5, 2025

Senators Rotundo and Curry, Representatives Gattine and Gere and members of the Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Housing and Economic Development,

We are Quincy Hentzel, President and CEO of the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce (PRCC) and Nate Henry, President of PROPEL, PRCC's young professionals' network. We represent 1,300 businesses in our region who employ over 75,000 Mainers. PROPEL enriches Maine's economy by developing an environment where young professionals thrive in our growing business community through networking and professional development. We are submitting this written testimony today to express our organization's support for the Maine Development Foundation initiative in LD 210 regarding the Realize Maine Network.

At PROPEL, we use our extensive schedule of year-round events to integrate Maine's young workforce into our larger business community, increasing retention of young professionals in Maine in pursuit of our shared goal of adding 75,000 people to Maine's workforce by 2030. PROPEL is a member organization of the Realize Maine Network, and this budget initiative is a critical support for their work to provide a platform to unify organizations like PROPEL around the state. These connections have allowed our organization to share ideas, strategies, and talent with other young professional groups, creating positive impacts on Maine's workforce development initiatives, and helping our committee members to see and learn about different regions of the state.

We thank you for your time and commitment to all Mainers, and we ask for your favorable approval of this important initiative in the biennial budget.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Quincy Hentzel in blue ink.

Portland Regional Chamber, President & CEO

Handwritten signature of Nathan Henry in blue ink.

PROPEL, Volunteer President