



Testimony to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Housing and Economic Development Committee

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

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Margaret Rotundo and Representative Drew Gattine, and Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Curry and Representative Gere,

My name is Emily Michaud, and I am the Chair of Momentum Aroostook, a program under the Realize Maine Network funded by the Maine Development Foundation. Momentum Aroostook is a networking group for young professionals in Aroostook County, helping to shape Aroostook County's next generation of leaders and mentors, and helping attract and retain young professionals to Northern Maine. I would like to extend my appreciation for allowing us to testify in support of MDF's appropriation.

Our steering committee consists of 13 members who represent towns throughout Aroostook County and a diverse range of career paths. Our group is volunteer-based, and we serve on the committee to execute programs and initiatives for professionals in our region. Collaboration is key to the success of our group. We partner with several organizations in our community to help build business skills and shape future leaders and showcase Aroostook County as an ideal place to live and work.

The funding provided from the Realize Maine Network through the Maine Development Foundation has been critical in enabling us to advance our mission and achieve key milestones in our professional development programs, networking events, and community-building initiatives. We have been able to offer skill-building workshops, seminars, and networking opportunities that directly benefit young professionals across Aroostook County. These initiatives are essential for fostering leadership, collaboration, and innovation within our region. Without MDF's support, the execution of these events would not be possible, and our impact would be significantly reduced. Providing developmental and connection opportunities for professionals in our region is crucial, specifically with the aging population.

Momentum Aroostook would greatly appreciate your consideration for funding, which supports not only our group but also benefits all of the groups within the Realize Maine Network. This investment helps ensure that Maine retains strong, talented professionals who will drive the future of our state forward.

Sincerely,
Emily Michaud