Toby Ahrens Diggables, Inc LD 210

My name is Toby Ahrens and my company makes added-value foods from Maine-sourced grains. I am writing to provide my full support for allocating funds to support MITC's Domestic Trade program. This program was previously funded through one-time funding related to the pandemic, and our company was lucky enough to receive some of those funds. We were able to grow our company's revenue from out-of-State sales as a direct result of that funding. For example, we were one of several Maine companies that received funds to partially offset the costs of attending a major food and beverage trade show in Philadelphia. We met and pitched our products to Whole Foods at that show, and they now carry our products throughout New England. This account was a direct result of the Domestic Trade program. Annual support for such a program will make Maine businesses more competitive by growing sales in larger markets while keeping jobs throughout the supply chain in Maine.