



February 4, 2025

To: Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Margaret Rotundo and Representative Drew Gattine and Housing & Economic Development Committee Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Curry and Rep. Gere.

From: Cynergy, affiliate of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce
269 Western Avenue, Augusta, ME 04330

Re: Testimony in Support of the 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" - in regard to the Appropriation to the Maine Development Foundation for the Realize Maine Network Program


To Whom It May Concern:


Cynergy, the new professional's group affiliate of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce, respectfully submits this written testimony in support of renewing biennial support to the Maine Development Program for the Realize Maine Network (RMN).

Cynergy has been fortunate to be the recipient of prior years' RMN mini-grant funding specifically designed to promote our professional development and networking programs through the community. Through these grants, we have been able to grow our steering committee membership, helping to develop our region's future leaders, as well as develop meaningful programming, helping to create a community for new professionals—new to the workforce, new to the area, new to the profession—in our region, so they are more likely to live, work, play, and most importantly stay in central Maine.

In this coming year we have scheduled at least one event per month and anticipate doubling the participation from community members as compared to last year. Our programming includes raising funds for local non-profits while highlighting community businesses, professional development seminars, networking opportunities and office culture building activities. We have relied heavily on and truly appreciate the funding support from RMN and strongly support continued funding in the upcoming budget.

Respectfully submitted,


Merval C. Porter, Chair
Cynergy Steering Committee


Heather Szela, Past Chair
Cynergy Steering Committee