

Jason Clay
11 Lionheart Lane
Brewer, ME 04412
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Testimony in Support of LD 360, An Act Supporting Dirigo Reads Literacy Program

Chair Rafferty, Chair Murphy, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

I write today in strong support of LD 360, *An Act Supporting Dirigo Reads Literacy Program*.

As a business owner and community member, I recently partnered with Dirigo Reads to host a statewide book giveaway, helping distribute hundreds of books from Presque Isle to Lewiston. Through this initiative, I spoke with parents, teachers, and children eager to see this program expand to their own communities. Increasing literacy rates among our children directly contributes to a more educated workforce and a stronger economy—a critical need for Maine’s future.

As a father of an eight-year-old, I’ve seen firsthand the excitement this program generates. My daughter was thrilled to bring home books from Dirigo Reads last year. For many children, especially those from low-income households, this program provides books they might not otherwise receive—opening doors to lifelong learning and success.

Supporting Dirigo Reads is a common-sense investment in Maine’s children, education system, and future workforce. I urge you to fund this program and will continue to do my part to support its growth.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Clay
Owner/CEO, Governor’s Restaurants