



Sen. Chip Curry, Senate Chair
Rep. Traci Gere, House Chair
Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Maine State Legislature

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 629 – An Act to Restore Matching Funding to the Maine Development Foundation

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Brunswick Downtown Association (BDA), I am writing to express our strong support for LD 629, which seeks to restore critical funding to the Maine Development Foundation (MDF). As an organization dedicated to fostering economic growth and community vibrancy in downtown Brunswick, we have directly benefited from the invaluable resources and expertise provided by MDF and the Maine Downtown Center (MDC).

MDF has played an essential role in supporting Maine's downtowns by providing leadership training, economic research, and technical assistance that have strengthened our communities. The Maine Downtown Center, in particular, has been instrumental in our efforts to enhance Brunswick's economic resilience and downtown revitalization. Their guidance, networking opportunities, and best practices have helped us implement impactful projects that support local businesses, attract investment, and improve the overall quality of life for residents and visitors.

The demand for MDF's services continues to rise, yet the loss of dedicated state funding has limited its capacity to serve communities like ours. Restoring this funding will ensure that Maine's downtowns continue to receive the support needed to drive economic development and sustain thriving business districts. The return on investment speaks for itself—every \$1 invested in a Maine Downtown Center community generates a \$23 return. This level of impact underscores the value of reinstating the intended \$500,000 in funding to sustain and expand MDF's critical work.

We urge the committee to support LD 629 and restore this vital funding to MDF. Our downtowns are the heart of Maine's communities, and investing in their success is an investment in the long-term economic vitality of the state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Reilly Kons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reilly Kons
Executive Director
Brunswick Downtown Association