

Michael Seymour
Luxolo Financial
LD 1286

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the HCIFS Committee,
My name is Michael Seymour, I am testifying in support of LD 1286. I live and work in Maine. I have a BS in Biology from Claremont Mckenna College and an MS in Health Informatics from the University of New England. I own and teach at a yoga studio in South Portland and have done this for 23 years. I also operated a concierge cryptocurrency exchange called Luxolo Financial from 2021 through 2024. I recently testified in Illinois Superior Court as an expert witness for the prosecution on the nature of Bitcoin.

Bitcoin was the original blockchain and fostered the development and evolution of an entirely new software technology. The fundamental qualities of a blockchain are decentralization, immutability, and transparency. There are now many blockchains and many more tokens that operate on these various blockchains.

Maine's economy is heavily reliant on resource management. This includes its vibrant tourist economy, fisheries, timber, and other agricultural products. Blockchain technology enables the authentication of origination for any product or manufacturing supply chain. This means that freshly harvested lobster can be authenticated as it is packaged and shipped to a destination/ buyer. This provides the buyer and therefore the market at large surety that the lobster was produced in Maine and harvested at a particular time, guaranteeing its freshness and provenance. Although such inventory management is available without blockchain, it is siloed data and is only as good as the reputation of the provider of that data. Blockchain is trustless and publicly verifiable. The market does not have to rely on the word of a central authority, which can easily be manipulated to suit an agenda, like a quota or a reputation to uphold. Blockchain data is irrefutable and immutable. This level of precision will increase the value of Maine agricultural exports and therefore generate more revenue for Maine businesses.

The largest industry based on employment is the healthcare sector. Blockchain can be used to safeguard and share patient medical records. The existing EHR systems are fragmented and lack interoperability. This was a critical flaw in the affordable healthcare act and its predecessor the HITECH act that failed to establish standards before inviting the free market to develop solutions. Unsurprisingly, many solutions came to market and none of them could communicate with each other. Blockchain can fix this quagmire and improve efficiency of health care communication between providers and enhance patient privacy and data security. These improvements in operational efficiency will improve patient outcomes and therefore increase revenue for this critical infrastructure in Maine.

I could seriously give hundreds of examples that illustrate how blockchain will improve profitability but I am out of time. Check the World Economic Forum and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for additional information on how blockchain technology is already transforming society. Maine needs to accelerate its economic viability instead of stall and debate, and ponder on the porch swings of yester-century.

Thank you,
Michael Seymour
Luxolo Financial