



CITY OF BANGOR

Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

Testimony in Support of LD 351 – An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issues to Build a Warehouse for Goods and Cargo at Bangor International Airport

April 15, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. I am Jose F. Saavedra, Director of Bangor International Airport (BGR) owned and operated by the City of Bangor, and on behalf of the Bangor City Council I'm providing testimony in support of LD 351 "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Build a Warehouse for Goods and Cargo at Bangor International Airport".

BGR supports more than 38,000 aircraft operations annually and serves over 744,000 passengers. As a 24/7 operation, we handle domestic and international airlines, military traffic, medical flights, and cargo operations. BGR's strategic location—as the first stop into the U.S. and last stop out along the Great Circle Route—offers unique advantages for cargo carriers.

This project would benefit Maine's import and export industries, spurring economic activity, job creation across multiple sectors and strengthen Maine's ability to compete in the global economy. A temperature-controlled cargo facility at BGR would also strengthen the state's logistics capabilities, creating more integration between Maine's air, land, and sea ports.

With over 96% of the world's population and 75% of global purchasing power located outside the U.S., Maine's future growth depends on increased access to international markets. BGR is home to Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) #58, which operates under the Alternative Site Framework (ASF), a flexible model allowing site-specific activation throughout the region. An international air freight warehouse would support the processing, handling, and storage of inbound cargo, as well as Maine's key exports in manufacturing, agriculture, semiconductors, aircraft parts, and more. This facility would leverage the FTZ and help attract new industries seeking supply chain advantages.

With U.S. Customs and Border Protection already located on site, this project further supports efficient FTZ operations and strengthens our international service capabilities. With the full support of the Bangor City Council, I urge you to pass LD 351. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

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