

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Testimony of Glenn Prickett, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

In Support of LD 506

LD 506, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and
Commercialization

April 11, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and esteemed members of the Committee on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

My name is Glenn Prickett. I serve as the President and CEO at the Gulf of Maine Research
Institute (GMRI) and present this testimony on behalf of our organization in support of LD 506.

GMRI is an applied research institute, developing and delivering collaborative solutions to
global ocean challenges. We translate research into impact through a science-based,
community-driven approach to our work. In order to capitalize upon the economic growth
opportunity before us, we need to invest throughout the innovation lifecycle. Successful
research, development, and demonstration are essential components to achieving widescale
deployment of any given technology and—in the process—drive investment and benefits
throughout the state.

LD 506 provides a smart investment in Maine’s future. Environmental and renewable energy
technology and aquaculture and marine technology are among the sectors LD 506 would invest
in. At GMRI, we engage with these sectors day in and day out. Whether it’s early-stage blue
economy entrepreneurs trying to scale their businesses, small-scale aquaculture farmers
attempting to access new markets, advanced marine sensor technologists building the
instrumentation that will enable better forecasts and smarter decisionmaking, or clean energy
and energy efficiency developers aiming to save Mainers money on their energy bills, GMRI
sees the timely need for investment in these sectors.

Mainers recognize a good deal when they see one. That’s why, in 2024, nearly 60% of Maine
voters approved a \$25 million R&D bond, showing strong bipartisan support. Voter support by
this margin illustrates that Mainers are eager to invest in the state’s future. Passing LD 506 in

2025 ensures Maine can capitalize on existing public enthusiasm, sustain innovation growth, and leverage matching federal and private dollars. We therefore urge the Committee to support LD 506.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Prickett", with a stylized, flowing script.

Glenn Prickett
President and CEO
Gulf of Maine Research Institute