



Housing and Economic Development Committee Members,

Good afternoon, my name is Jacob LaBrie, and I am a 4th generation potato farm owner in Saint Agatha. I am writing to you today to ask you to oppose the repeal of the Dirigo business incentives program. I am no activist, and spring is a very busy time for farmers. However, I felt it was crucial to speak to you about this and how it can negatively impact Maine businesses.

The Dirigo business incentives program has the opportunity to give Maine businesses a much needed tax credit on investments, whether that be capital (building construction and improvements) or offering qualified training to employees (improving quality services/products/creates jobs).

It is no doubt that the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sectors are some of the largest contributors to Maine's economy. By removing this program, it has the potential to discourage the investment to our local communities, limit job opportunities and decrease competitiveness with other states.

Our business has made plans on utilizing the Dirigo business program to help assist us in growing and improving our business for the next generation. In the agriculture sector if you do not improve and advance it will be extremely difficult to survive. Losing this program would be devastating, making the task of keeping our Maine business alive even more demanding.

In summary the Dirigo program is a key tool for Maine's economic development, offering incentives to businesses to invest in growth, training, and job creation, particularly in sectors vital to the state's economy. Thank you for taking the time to read my point of view today. I hope you will help support Maine's businesses and keep the Dirigo business incentives program in place.

Sincerely,

Jacob LaBrie
LaBrie Farms LLC