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LD 1643

Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development  
Testimony of Jess Davis-Knowlton, PhD, BioME member  
In Support of LD 1643

LD 1643, an Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center April 24,  
2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Jess Davis-Knowlton, PhD. I am from Cape Elizabeth and am a member of BioME. I am honored to testify in support of LD 1643 as I am in a unique position to have witnessed the success of our New England neighbors in promoting their Life Sciences Industries.

I grew up in Rhode Island and still have relatives and friends in the state. I was very excited for them when I heard that RI had invested 45 million dollars to form a life sciences hub. I was excited for my friends and colleagues in Rhode Island because I completed my undergrad and PhD graduate work at institutions in Massachusetts. While studying there, I saw firsthand how the long term, coordinated strategy had promoted a powerful, connected, and vibrant Life Sciences economy for Massachusetts. It is a source of great pride and ever-growing expertise for the state. Maine has a strong and well-connected Life Sciences industry as well. We have passionate and devoted individuals and organizations in Maine who encourage us all to keep talking and looking for opportunities. It is time for Maine to raise these grassroots efforts and create a central organized hub to aligning funding, policy, and partnerships across health, oceans, biotech, data, and agriculture sciences.