

April 24, 2025

Our Katahdin
245 Aroostook Avenue
Millinocket, ME 04462

Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Cross Building, Rm 206
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Chairpersons Sen. Curry, Rep. Gere and Committee
Members:



My name is Steve Sanders and I am Director of Mill Site Redevelopment for Our Katahdin in Millinocket. Our Katahdin is an economic and community development non-profit, with a major focus on attracting capital investment and employment to our One North industrial site.

Attracting major capital to northern Maine has been a challenge. In our pursuit of luring large investment in agricultural, forestry, aquaculture and manufacturing industries, we are frequently competing against other states and even other countries for those investment commitments. The incentives offered by the Dirigo program are the leading assets we can use to attract entities that are conducting a country-wide or global site selection.

To date, we have been successful in attracting (2) such investments to our One North site. Great Northern Salmon and EME Biofuels both have options to lease land at One North, have applied for major environmental permits and have raised their pre-construction capital. Each of these projects will require a total capital investment of approximately \$300 million and combined employment approaching 200 jobs. Both entities have cited incentives of the Dirigo program in their pro formas and business models and intend on utilizing not only the tax credits offered by the Dirigo program, but the job training grants will be critical to their efforts of relocating workers to the Katahdin area.

Our Katahdin works very closely with Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development to reestablish a manufacturing base in the Katahdin region. We strongly urge the Committee to strengthen the incentives for these industries and unanimously vote "not to pass" on LD 1664, An Act to Repeal Dirigo Business Incentives Program.

Sincerely,

Steve Sanders

Steve Sanders
Director of Mill Site Redevelopment
Our Katahdin