



May 7, 2025

The Honorable Chip Curry, Senate Chair
The Honorable Traci Gere, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Cross Building, Room 206
Augusta, Maine 04330

Subject: *LD 1819 An Act Regarding the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund*

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Gere and the Honorable Members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Jaimie Logan, and I am the Director of TechPlace at Brunswick Landing. I am here today to speak on behalf of MRRA Executive Director, Daniel Stevenson in support of LD 1819, *An Act Regarding the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund*. Dan is traveling out of the country.

The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA) is charged with the complex and vital task of redeveloping the former Naval Air Station Brunswick into a center for innovation, employment, sustainable economic growth while serving as steward of sound environmental practices. Over the past decade, MRRA has made impressive progress, attracting over 160 businesses and creating thousands of jobs. However, the site still faces substantial infrastructure challenges inherited from its military past.

Much of the infrastructure at Brunswick Landing is outdated and in critical need of investment. This includes the stormwater and roadway systems, an aging water distribution network, deteriorating hangar roofs, and other essential facilities. These upgrades are not only necessary for current operations but are foundational for continued redevelopment and attracting new investment.

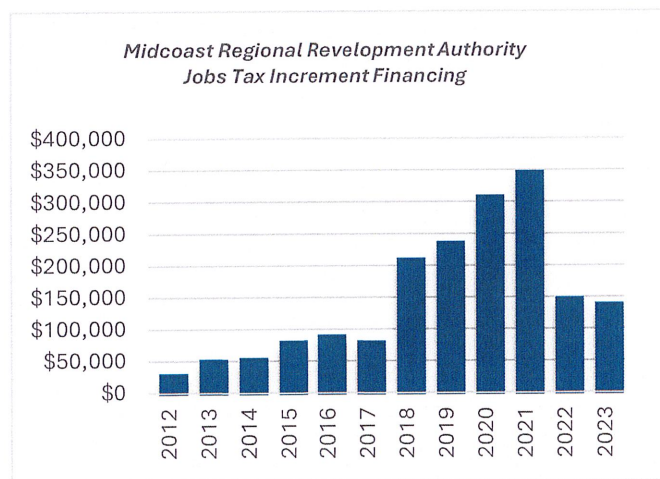
Under current law, 25% of the state income taxes paid by employees working at the former base is directed back to MRRA to support redevelopment efforts. While this mechanism has been helpful, it is no longer sufficient to meet the scale of infrastructure needs.

LD 1819 would strengthen this funding tool in two critical ways:

1. Increase MRRA's share of job increment financing revenues from 25% to 75%, while ensuring that Southern Maine Community College retains its current 25% share. This adjustment would provide MRRA with significantly greater resources to invest in the site's infrastructure, job creation potential and environmental stewardship.
2. Expand the definition of eligible employees to include those who work for Brunswick Landing-based businesses but are considered remote workers. This is a crucial update. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, remote work has become a widespread and lasting feature of the modern economy. Unfortunately, this shift has caused a significant decrease in MRRA's benefit from the job increment financing program, despite the fact that those employees remain vital parts of the Brunswick Landing business ecosystem.

In 2022, the Maine Revenue Service removed consideration of remote workers as eligible workers under the J-TIF statute as it had in prior years. This resulted in a substantial reduction in financial support. In 2022, the State of Maine provided \$333,403.93 (tax year 2021).

MRRA had projected and planned for a J-TIF revenue of \$350,000 for 2023. Instead, the State made a payment of \$134,311.71, due to the exclusion of remote workers. In 2024, the appropriation dropped even further, down to \$125,384.21.



By passing LD 1819, the Legislature would be reaffirming its commitment to the successful redevelopment of NAS Brunswick. It would provide MRRA with the tools necessary to meet the very real infrastructure needs of the site while modernizing the law to reflect the realities of today's workforce.

I respectfully therefore urge you to support LD 1819 and help MRRA continue to turn Brunswick Landing into a dynamic, sustainable, and innovative economic engine for the region and for the State of Maine.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jaimie Logan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jaimie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Logan".

Jaimie Logan
TechPlace Director

cc. Daniel Steveson, Executive Director
MRRA Board of Trustees