

# Testimony of Industry Representative in Support of LD 1863

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## **Testimony in Support of LD 1863 – An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Space Corporation**

Phillip Rench

Owner, Ossipee Hill Farm & Observatory

Board Member, Maine Space Corporation

May 12, 2025

Before the Committee on Housing and Economic Development

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Phillip Rench, and I serve as Owner at Ossipee Hill Farm & Observatory. I am also a board member of the Maine Space Corporation. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of LD 1863.

As an industry representative, I strongly support the mission of the Maine Space Corporation to develop a coordinated space innovation ecosystem that strengthens Maine's economic and technological future. Industry needs partners who understand how to build the infrastructure, governance, and workforce necessary to support long-term growth. The Maine Space Corporation provides that leadership.

LD 1863 will give the Corporation the legal and structural clarity it needs to succeed. Codifying the Corporation as a quasi-independent state entity and instrumentality of the State ensures it can work credibly with both public and private partners. Aligning it with the requirements of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is equally essential—it allows the Corporation to compete for federal and philanthropic grants and to receive support from private capital.

For companies like mine, these legal provisions matter. They affect how we evaluate risk, how we collaborate, and how we invest in new technologies and partnerships. LD 1863 also ensures that our proprietary and technical information is protected—an important factor in any industry collaboration.

Maine is poised to become a leader in small satellite innovation, aerospace testing, and space data applications. With the Maine Space Complex, we have a unique opportunity to develop infrastructure that supports the full space technology lifecycle. But to do this, the Corporation must have the legal authority and nonprofit status to coordinate these activities and attract funding.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support LD 1863. This bill will help secure the foundation we

need to grow an industry that can bring high-paying jobs, private investment, and global visibility to Maine.

Thank you for your time and for your continued support of Maine's innovation economy.