



Maine Community College System

TO: Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development
FROM: Janet Sortor, Board Member, Maine Space Corporation
RE: Testimony in Support of LD 1863 – An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Space Corporation
DATE: May 13, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Janet Sortor, and I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Maine Space Corporation. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1863, a bill that will strengthen the Corporation's statutory foundation and ensure it can operate with the transparency, legal clarity, and governance expected of a public-purpose entity.

As a board member, I take seriously our responsibility to provide oversight and strategic direction to an organization that is stewarding an ambitious vision for Maine's future. The space economy is no longer science fiction; it is a growing economic sector generating jobs, innovation, and investment around the world. Maine has the talent, geography, and technical capacity to be a meaningful part of this economy. The Maine Space Corporation was created to make that vision actionable and coordinated, and LD 1863 is a necessary step toward that goal.

This legislation does three things that are especially important from a board governance perspective:

1. It clearly defines the Corporation as a quasi-independent state entity and an instrumentality of the State, which is critical for how we engage with federal and private sector partners. Without this clarity, we risk legal ambiguity that can limit our credibility or eligibility for external funding.
2. It aligns the Corporation with the requirements of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, a step that not only unlocks federal funding but also reassures philanthropic and private donors that the Corporation operates in the public interest with the financial and operational standards of a nonprofit organization.
3. It modernizes board governance procedures to ensure smooth decision-making, continuity of operations, and protection of confidential business and technical information—protections essential to forming trusted partnerships with commercial collaborators.

LD 1863 is a forward-looking bill. It is about putting the right legal and organizational framework in place now, so that Maine can fully participate in and benefit from one of the most dynamic industries of the 21st century. I respectfully urge the Committee to support its passage.

Thank you for your time and your service to the people of Maine.