

CIANBRO

LD-2212, “An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027” (2-19-2026)

Good afternoon Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and respective members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. My name is Tim C. Walton, I am a resident of Livermore and I am supplying comments today on behalf of CIANBRO in opposition to Part O of LD-2212, “An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027”, which proposes to sunset the Business, Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR).

A 100% employee-owned construction and construction services firm headquartered in Pittsfield, Maine, CIANBRO routinely operates in over 40 States, employing over 4,000 team members; over 1,300 of which are Maine residents.

For over three decades, the BETR program has been the catalyst of investment of hundreds of millions of dollars by Maine’s business and industry communities. The foresight of the Legislature in 1995 has proven that good public policy can have positive economic impact for generations. Since its inception, this committee, along with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation have heard countless accounts from a variety of notable businesses as to the effectiveness of the program, including in the areas of job retention and creation. Capital intensive industries depend on the BETR program to remain viable and competitive. With so much unpredictability in the day-to-day operations of a business, the BETR program has offered consistent stability.

At CIANBRO we have experienced the benefits of the program meeting its objectives by allowing us to make investment in capital equipment in Maine more attractive. BETR has lowered the ownership costs of our large equipment fleet located and managed here in Maine. As a 100% employee-owned company, any dollars saved go to benefit our team members and provide us with additional capital to invest in our business, making us more sustainable. We have also seen the indirect success of the program thru investments made here in Maine by our customers. These investments have a significant multiplier effect to the betterment of the economy as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our position on this matter.