

**Testimony from Barry Doyle
President & CEO, Kennebec Technologies**

In support of the Maine Free College Scholarship

LD 2212, An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government 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. Part A, page 17 and Language QQQ

February 20, 2026

Senator Rotundo, Senator Rafferty, Representative Gattine, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Barry Doyle. My hometown is Albion and I am the President & CEO at Kennebec Technologies in Augusta.

I am here to testify in support of the portion of LD 2212 that funds and makes permanent the Maine Free College Scholarship.

Since 1972, Kennebec Technologies has grown from a small shop with manual machines and systems to a sophisticated world-class award-winning manufacturing company specializing in complex, high-precision components for aerospace, defense, alternative energy, medical, semiconductor, and telecom applications.

Kennebec Technologies needs the skilled workforce provided by Maine's community colleges. We pride ourselves on our sophisticated understanding of efficient precision machine manufacturing production and logistics practices, which enable us to deliver a consistently high level of quality, to very tough standards, on time, every time. Our core machine products sectors are aerospace and defense, medical products, semiconductor, telecommunications and alternative energy manufacturing. We could not do what we do without the motivated Maine Community College graduates.

To provide the first two years of college at no cost creates opportunities for students that may never have been able to afford to go to college. This opportunity provides students with essential skills that are critical to Maine's economy. Whether in preparation for a 4-year degree, or for entry into the trades, each student is critical to Maine's sustainability and growth.

It is our job as Mainers to create a culture that leads to a fostering and supporting environment, that in turn can lead to long-term employment in our state. We need to provide a culture that provides both current and future residents with a reason to stay, live, and thrive in Maine. I believe investing in our students is an important part of creating the correct culture that can lead to success and community engagement.

On a personal note, it took me 23 years to pay off my second degree and finally, at the age of 66, I was able to pay off my two student loans. We should do anything we can to lessen that burden or stress on our students and their families.

Barry.Doyle@Kennebec.com
(207) 626-0188 x2215