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February 9, 2013

Subject: 10 65; Committee on Innovation, development, Economic Development & business

Committee which persons, members of the committee and the audience, & thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My wife and I have owned & operated Heritage Printing & Publishing for nearly 35 years in Farmington. We have served our community well. I was president of Rotary, a governing officer on the Chamber of Commerce board for both Saco and Farmington, & was president of the Farmington Ski Club which operates Titmouse Mountain Ski Area. I spent 25 years on the National Ski Patrol and interestingly, I was also the founding President of the Grief of Maine Foundation and during my term we raised over \$80,000, built a free flowing salt water laboratory which we donated to the University. The effort impacted heavily on the aquaculture industry here in Maine. I am no friend of the University and my wife was a student there.

It is very difficult running a successful small business in Maine. I bet every one of you promised to support small business when you were running for election. The University of Maine and other government funded entities compete for work in the public sector. They displace free enterprise companies. I recall a saying, over the years, that "when I print items for market & generate tax revenue, when the University does it, they spend revenue"!

There have been similar bills over the 35 (+/-) years we printed. We competed with vocational schools, Maine State Prison and others. At one of the public hearings the University provided false testimony, by a former legislator. Camp ground owners, waters, fishing lakes and others testified about false subsidized competition. When we compete against the University, we are subsidizing competition against ourselves!

A review of the economics should be made.
Think of the excise taxes, equipment & property tax,
state and federal taxes that would be generated by
free markets.

One day our employees received notification from the
state that they could receive more money than
their wages if they went on unemployment. One had
been with us nearly 30 years. My wife did the
accounting, I did the marketing and the others did
the printing and production. We shut down that
day losing a lot of money! We went to work as
a successful small business at 8:00 AM and by 9:00 AM
it was gone.

Printing is not the only affected area as I have read
recently about the wind turbine bid being awarded to the
University and the University proposed building houses
with a 3-D printer, thus displacing tax paying
competition. A dangerous precedent.

Is this a decision that should be decided by the legislature
or one that should be decided by the university? Regardless
this committee votes, I hope the University will conduct
an economic analysis of the use of the space by the
College, tax revenues and all other money.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,
Don McIntire