



Testimony of:

Kristine Logan, Executive Director – Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority

Before the:

Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business

In Support of:

LD 941 – “An Act Facilitating the Efforts of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority and the Town of Brunswick to Design and Carry Out Improvements to the Storm Water System and Other Infrastructure at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Cross Building, Room 202
Augusta, ME 04333

April 4, 2023

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Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business. My name is Kristine Logan, and I am the Executive Director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA), and I am here today to share information in support of LD 941, sponsored by Representative Ankeles.

In 2005 the Department of Defense made the decision to close the Naval Air Station in Brunswick Maine (NASB). At that time, the NASB employed 4,863 military members, 714 civilians, and generated \$140 million dollars in payroll. The Maine State Legislature created MRRA to manage the transfer of property from military to civilian use. A Master Reuse Plan was created directing the utility systems be turned over to their respective districts and the Town of Brunswick.

Currently, the Brunswick Landing is home to 160 companies who employ over 2,500 people. There are 700 units of housing, a general aviation airport, seven educational institutions, and over 1,000 acres of land preserved for recreation and conservation. To further understand the scope of MRRA's responsibility, the former base property is comprised of 3300 acres of land, 27 miles of paved roads, 17 miles of water pipe, and 15 miles of electrical power lines that provide 3.5 megawatts of power to the Brunswick Landing campus. Over the past 15 years, MRRA has been making improvements and investments into the inherited utility systems and slowly turning them over to the respective districts. MRRA invested \$2,367,129 upgrading sewer lines and pump stations, \$1,924,825 into upgrading the electrical infrastructure, and \$616,162 into improvements to the domestic water system. As you can see, there has been a considerable effort made to maintain and improve the utility systems, but the cost associated with the improvements that still need to be made, is overwhelming.

MRRA's is on track to meet the full potential of the redevelopment effort: 13,800 total jobs created and full payroll replacement. If funds are not available to improve systems, it is likely to negatively impact, or even stop, future developments. These developments include the attraction of innovative companies from outside the State making investments in the Brunswick Landing, the creation of much needed housing which includes affordable housing units, the creation of the Midcoast Athletic Recreation Complex (MARC), the opening of an Aviation Mechanics Technician School (AMTS), and further growth at the Brunswick Executive Airport. These developments are critical to the economic growth and recovery of the Brunswick region and the State. Not only are the future developments in

jeopardy, but we risk current developers leaving to find locations where the infrastructure can better support their projects.

Without the ability to upgrade our infrastructure, we will not be able to support new and existing economic activity. Our ability to attract new businesses to the State will begin to fade. We need your assistance. I am confident that with the proper investments, the redevelopment of the former Naval Air Station Brunswick will continue to foster a sustainable, thriving economy in Midcoast Maine, providing new business opportunities, housing, and jobs for region.