



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and honorable members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology. My name is Irene Gifford, and I proudly serve Lincoln as well as many other communities. I am here today to express my support of LD 2270 *"An Act to Create the Lincoln Mill Facilities District"*

I would like to first thank Senator Tipping for testifying today in support of my home community of Lincoln. I am honored to have spent my life in this community watching my children and grandchildren grow and thrive. I agree with Senator Tipping, this bill is a new tool for my community to use in the redevelopment of the former Lincoln Pulp & Tissue Mill campus. I have spent many years in Lincoln with a mill that was a major economic engine and employer of so many people in my community. Including my late husband The Honorable Jeffrey Gifford. Jeff and hundreds of his co-workers saw tremendous opportunity at the Lincoln Mill. It brought food to our table and economic opportunity to my community.

Since the explosion of the recovery boiler idled the Mill in 2013 this community has rolled up its sleeves and acquired the entire mill site out of bankruptcy and is moving boldly forward to bring investment and employment back to this community.

I also want to recognize our former DECD Commissioner Steve Levesque who has been actively working with the Town to redevelop the mill site; he and our Town Manager as well as Town Staff have worked hard to bring back opportunity to our town.

I agree with Senator Tipping that we should help the town as it takes on this major challenge of developing a mill sight right next to our downtown and help to restore the heart of my home town and local economy that is the key to the success of the regional Northern Penobscot Community.

This Lincoln Mill Facilities District is a new and important tool I urge you all to support.

Thank you for your time & consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene A. Gifford".

Irene A. Gifford
State Representative

House District 28