



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**MAINE.**  
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

HEATHER JOHNSON  
COMMISSIONER

**February 6, 2025**

**Testimony of Heather Johnson**

**Neither for nor against LD 195  
An Act to Create the Small Business Capital Savings Account Program**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Heather Johnson, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I am here today to testify neither for nor against LD 195.

A small business capital savings account program is a sensible tool for small businesses to save for major investments. Just as we save for cars, homes, and our children's education, it makes financial sense to build savings for significant business expenditures. The more a business can contribute upfront, the better positioned they are for long-term success.

For our heritage industries, farming, fishing and logging, this program can be a critical resource for preservation and growth—areas where opportunities can often be limited.

DECD does have the capacity to implement this program effectively. We can work with the Maine Revenue Services (MRS) to provide the necessary information for administering the tax credit, ensuring transparency and accountability. The reporting requirements will help guarantee that Maine taxpayers can see the positive impact of supporting the industries that have shaped our state. DECD understands with budget constraints as they are, it may not be the time for the department to fully support this measure.

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions.