



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL DUGUAY
COMMISSIONER

April 9, 2025

Testimony for Michael Duguay

**LD 506 "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for
Research and Development and Commercialization."**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, my name is Michael Duguay and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. I am here today to offer testimony neither for nor against **LD 506, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization.**

This critical legislation will provide \$50 million in funding to advance research, innovation, and economic development in Maine's most promising sector, ensuring long-term prosperity for our state, a key strategy in achieving.

Investing in research and development (R&D) is essential for fostering technological advancements, job creation, and economic resilience. The targeted sectors—life sciences, biomedical technology, renewable energy, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and marine technology—are key drivers of innovation and economic diversification. By supporting these industries, we position Maine as a leader in cutting-edge fields, attract top talent, and stimulate economic growth.

Additionally, the competitive nature of the funding allocation ensures that resources are directed toward the most impactful and viable projects. The requirement for matching private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis maximizes the return on investment, leveraging state dollars to generate even greater economic benefits. This strategic approach ensures fiscal responsibility while promoting groundbreaking discoveries and commercialization efforts.



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Beyond economic benefits, this bond issue will strengthen Maine's education and workforce development initiatives. By providing funding to both public and private institutions, we empower research institutions, universities, and businesses to collaborate on innovative solutions that address real-world challenges. This collaboration fosters a skilled workforce, enhances our research ecosystem, and encourages entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, investing in R&D aligns with Maine's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. By supporting advancements in renewable energy, forestry, agriculture, and marine technology, this funding can help drive solutions that mitigate climate change, enhance resource management, and ensure long-term ecological balance.

Lastly, this bond gives Maine the opportunity to invest in one of initiatives that the Governor proposed in the original budget, a Biotech Hub that will support the work already being done in Maine and gearing up for in the future. We all know that having a strong foundation is key to successful building. These two items combined, give Maine tools it needs for great success. LD 506 is a step toward connecting the people of Maine in securing innovation and economic growth for our state.

Understanding the economic challenges we face; it is understandable that this committee will have to weigh the pros and cons carefully while deciding what the best investments for the future. I will do my best to provide any information the committee may need to make those decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.