



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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DEVELOPMENT

JANET T. MILLS  
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COMMISSIONER

**May 16, 2025**  
**Testimony of Maureen Terry**

**in Support of**  
**LD 1951 An Act to Promote Food Processing and Manufacturing**  
**Facility Expansion and Create Jobs**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation**

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and members of the Committee on Taxation. My name is Maureen Terry and I am the legislative liaison for the Department of Economic and Community Development and I'm here to testify in strong support of LD 1951: An Act to Promote Food Processing and Manufacturing Facility Expansion and Create Jobs.

This bill makes important and timely updates to Maine's income tax credit for Major Food Processing and Manufacturing Facility Expansion, modernizing it in a way that positions our state to better compete for large-scale food industry investments—especially in rural regions that have long awaited meaningful economic opportunities.

LD 1951 makes several targeted improvements to the existing credit, making it easier for food processing and manufacturing businesses to maximize investment in Maine. Specifically, the bill:

- Extends the window for qualified investment from December 2024 to December 2027.
- Doubles the total program cap from \$100 million to \$200 million in qualified investment.
- Raises the cap on any individual certificate of approval from \$85 million to \$100 million.
- For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, the refundable credit rate increases from 1.8% to 2% of a certified applicant's qualified investment.

**These changes are designed not just to update the program, but to unlock real, tangible projects.**

One of the most promising impacts of this bill is the economic revitalization it will bring to Aroostook County, particularly at Loring Commerce Centre. Projects currently in development at Loring are expected to bring at least 100 new quality jobs to the county, jobs that are critical for both families and the regional economy.



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This level of investment hasn't been seen in the region for decades, and it would not have been possible without the flexibility and expanded provisions included in LD 1951. By modernizing the credit criteria and extending the program timeline, the legislation enables businesses to meet key benchmarks while committing to long-term growth in Maine.

It's also important to highlight that Maine-grown potatoes are particularly well-suited for this type of food production so direct investment in this specific area is crucial. There is clear data that the return on investment, in terms of jobs, infrastructure, and long-term tax revenue, far outweighs the cost. This is exactly the right kind of economic development that meets all the qualifications for a private public partnership in Maine. Taking our heritage industries, revitalizing them for the current market and then partnering with the businesses either taking a chance or upgrading their efforts is exactly what Maine needs now.

LD 1951 strikes the right balance between economic development, regional revitalization, and fiscal responsibility. It opens the door for transformative projects—like the one at Loring—that will create jobs, build long-term capacity in our food production sector, and demonstrate Maine's commitment to supporting strategic private investment.

I urge this Committee to support LD 1951 and vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.