



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing
LD 2216, "An Act to Establish the Maine Blue Economy Center"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
March 5, 2026

Representative Gere and distinguished colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Chip Curry. I represent Senate District 11, which includes all 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce LD 2216, "An Act to Establish the Maine Blue Economy Center."

This bill comes before the committee pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 114, which we are more familiar with as LD 1023 from the first session of the 132nd Legislature, titled "Resolve, to Reestablish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century." That resolution, signed by the Governor on July 1st, 2025, directed the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene the Blue Economy Task Force and develop recommendations related to establishing a center focused on Maine's blue economy sector.

As required by that resolution, the task force submitted its report and recommendations to this committee in December of last year. LD 2216 was reported out by the committee in order to place those recommendations into bill form so that the Legislature may hold a public hearing and consider them through the normal legislative process.

Like many communities along Maine's coast, the towns I represent rely heavily on ocean-based industries for jobs, innovation, and long-term economic stability. From aquaculture and marine research to boatbuilding and working waterfront businesses, the blue economy is already a major part of Maine's identity and future. I support moving this bill forward because creating a coordinated center to help connect research, workforce development, and business growth has the potential to strengthen those industries and ensure Maine remains a leader in this space. I look forward to the committee's discussion and continued work on this proposal.

Thank you.

Chip Curry
State Senator, District 11
Representing the twenty-six rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County