



Senator Troy D. Jackson
Senate Democratic Leader
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515
Cell (207) 436-0763
Troy.Jackson@legislature.maine.gov

Testimony of Senator Troy Jackson in support of L.D. 1639 "An Act To Promote Major Business Headquarters Expansions in Maine, Promote the Commercialization of Research and Development in Maine and Create Jobs"
Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
June 14, 2012

Senator Dow, Representative Tipping and honorable members of the Taxation Committee:

I'm Senator Troy Jackson of Allagash and I am pleased to present LD 1639.

This legislation will help to support and create the jobs of the future, and demonstrate that Maine is a state where good companies can expand and grow. Specifically, this legislation will encourage the expansion of company headquarters in Maine by providing certain tax incentives for large companies who choose to base or expand their headquarters here. One such company, and one which has a long and proud history in Maine, is IDEXX.

IDEXX is headquartered in Westbrook, Maine and employs over 6,000 individuals in over 175 countries worldwide. IDEXX is a market leader in the development, manufacture and distribution of products and services for the companion animal veterinary, livestock and poultry, water testing, and dairy markets.

IDEXX has grown over the past 35 years from a small startup company to a major employer and positive economic force in Maine. Over the past few years, it has grown in Westbrook at a rate of about 100 new employees a year. Now, they are bursting at their seams and they are looking to expand. One of their expansion options is at their company's worldwide headquarters in Westbrook. The jobs they will create are the jobs of the future- from research, to development, to manufacturing and distribution to sales and all the supports that go with it. These are the kinds of jobs we all say we want here, and now we have the opportunity to help make that happen with a company that has proven itself as a successful business, a good employer and a generous and caring corporate neighbor and citizen. You'll hear more about all of this from others to follow..

We did a similar type of refundable tax credit about ten years ago for BIW and it has proven to be a great investment in retaining jobs in Maine. Sadly, we don't have a lot of large companies left in Maine, particularly those headquartered here. This bill will help us to encourage large companies to be headquartered here. So I encourage us to do all we can to encourage and support these companies' efforts to grow and flourish here in Maine, knowing that if they do, we'll all benefit.

You'll hear a great deal more about this legislation from the folks behind me. I believe that this is an important bill and I urge you to give it favorable consideration. I'd be happy to respond to any questions the Committee may have.