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Testimony in Support of:

**LD 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**

Senator Dow, Representative Tipping and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

I am Rep. Ken Fredette, and I represent House District 100, which includes the towns of Corinna, Dixmont, Etna, Newport and Plymouth.

I am pleased to be before you today as a co-sponsor 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. Through this legislation, the Maine Legislature has an opportunity to make some strategic enhancements to our state's existing business incentives in order to maximize the potential for continued growth of a world class company based right here in our home state.

Thirty-five years ago, IDEXX Laboratories was a start-up, and today it is an internationally renowned leader in veterinary diagnostics and water testing. This is a great Maine success story, and one we should all feel proud to support. The jobs that IDEXX provides are the jobs of the future—technology, innovation, research and development. These are the kinds of jobs that will help Maine families get ahead, and the kinds of jobs we need more of in order to grow our economy.

IDEXX success to date has created a need for further expansion, and the company is evaluating the viability of making that major investment in Maine. This legislation will provide the economic platform from which Maine can effectively compete, not only for this known economic development opportunity, but for additional research and development investment in Maine by other companies as well. The bill before you would provide certain tax incentives to IDEXX and other companies who do research and development, along with additional provisions that encourage construction and training, and that use best practices in incentive programs to ensure transparency and accountability.

The time for us to act is now. We have a tangible, and substantial opportunity to create hundreds of additional jobs in Maine in an industry that is not only environmentally friendly but the wave of the future, and with a company that has a proven track record both as a successful business, as well as an exemplary corporate citizen. And we can leverage this immediate circumstance to attract new businesses that are able to demonstrate the same return on investment to our State.

You will be hearing more about the specifics of this legislation this afternoon from others who will follow me. I hope you will give this bill your careful consideration and your enthusiastic support.

Thank you for working on this important issue, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.