



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HEATHER JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

February 8, 2023

Senator Henry Ingwersen
Representative Bill Pluecker
Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

The Department of Economic and Community Development has submitted a department bill, LD 150, intended to allow companies that have experienced catastrophes to be able to maintain participation in the Pine Tree Development Zone and food processing manufacturing facility credit programs. This bill, *An Act to Allow Incentive Continuity Following a Catastrophic Occurrence Under the Pine Tree Development Zone and Major Food Processing and Manufacturing Facility Expansion Tax Credit Programs*, has been referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. Our understanding is that LD 220, *An Act to Support Maine's Potato Farmers and Processors*, although still a concept draft, was submitted and referred to your committee with a similar intent.

I am writing to ask if your committee may consider delaying action on LD 220 until the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had the chance to work on LD 150. Doing so would give your two committees the chance to coordinate efforts to ensure the desired ends of these bills are achieved. As a department, we intend to make the required fixes to the relevant incentive statutes through our bill, but we do not want to preclude the sponsors of LD 220 from pursuing further or different improvements through their bill.

We are happy to discuss this issue further at your request.

Sincerely,

Phoenix McLaughlin
Tax Incentive Policy Manager